

Hafa Adai!

MTEC hosts its first Tourism Summit in two years. **PAGE 2**

DLNR cuts operational hours at the Grotto. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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## Alleged 'FAM tour' denounced

All board and commission members are asked to resign

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has asked all members of boards and commissions who were politically appointed by the previous Torres administration to resign to pave the way for the appointment of new board and commission members.

When asked for comment, See **BOARDS** on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian) has disavowed any knowledge or involvement in an **» Alleged scam features paid meet-and-greet with NMI officials** allegedly circulated a flier for a Tinian and Saipan familiarization tour that includes meeting government officials and is charging \$2,500 per participant. See **SCAM** on Page 4



King-Nabors

## Austerity, furloughs, discontinuing payment of 25% retirees' pension are all on the table

**» Governor assures discontinuing 25% payment not a high priority cut**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Considering the CNMI government's dire financial situation, austerity measures such

as furloughing some government employees as part of cost-cutting measures, and discontinuing the payment of the additional 25% retirees' See **AUSTERITY** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios answers a question as Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang listens during a news briefing in the governor's conference room Wednesday afternoon.

'Regular guy' is SCC Business Person of the Year



By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Self-confessed "regular guy" Jay Santos was named the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year for 2022.

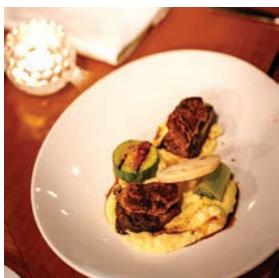
The Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Triple J Truckload Store general manager was bestowed

See **CHAMBER** on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Triple J Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos delivers his acceptance speech after winning the 2022 Business Person of the Year award during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2022 "Bowties & Diamonds" Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala last Saturday night at Crowne Plaza Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan has introduced its Tuesday-only Ora Di Cena four-course menu.

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### WORLD

Chris Hipkins is confirmed as New Zealand's next prime minister to replace Jacinda Ardern.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Leslie Jordan was found to have died from natural causes and not from a car accident last year.

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# Local

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Hundreds of students listen to guest speaker Dr. Bobby Cruz speak at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit last Thursday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

“We want them to understand what it is they can do as a young student. So the kids come in here and they listen to speakers and see pictures so they understand why visitors come here and what they can do to make the visitors keep coming. It all starts at home, at our schools,” she said.

At the end of the day, Benavente said, the hope is to get everyone, including students, to help promote the beauty of the CNMI and further entice more tourists to visit.

“We’re going to keep promoting. We and [the Marianas Visitors Authority] are doing our best to market our destination. But if you look at the global events...the [arrival] numbers aren’t really getting back to pre-pandemic numbers. But we’re still going to keep promoting, right. Nothing will stop us from promoting. As our speakers told the kids: It’s up to you to promote the islands, put it on Instagram, or on Facebook, or wherever you can, and promote the island as one of the most beautiful places in the world,” she added.

Aside from hearing from speakers on the importance of tourism and their roles in promoting the islands, there was also an exhibit of the many different agencies who play a part in beautifying the CNMI.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

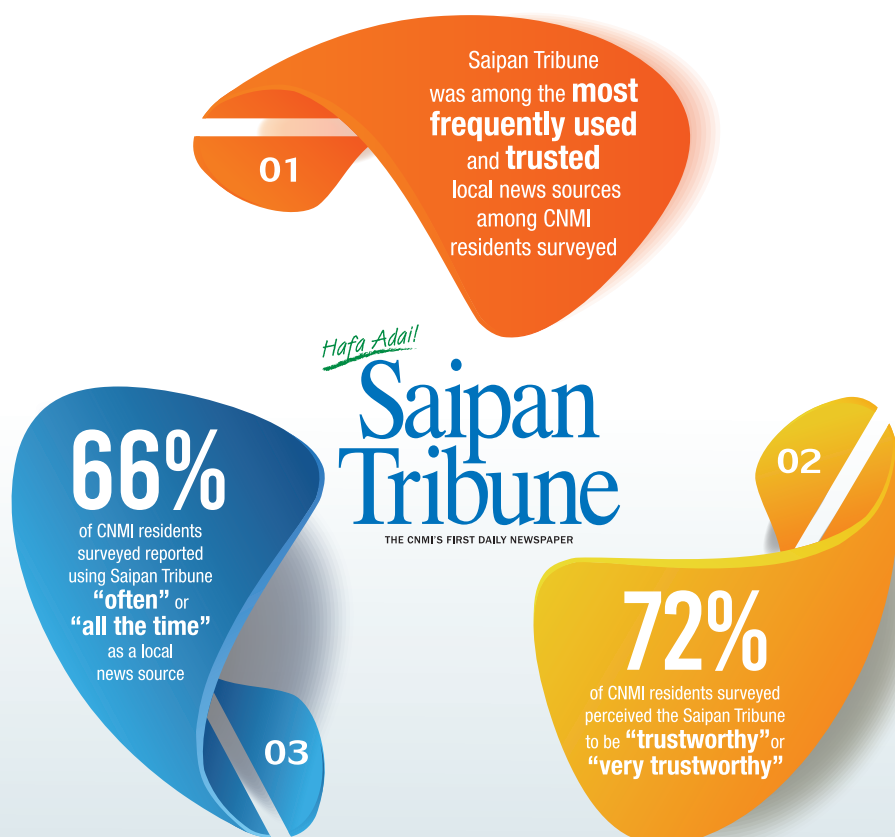
The Marianas Tourism Education Council hosted its first Tourism Summit in two years last Thursday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan, featuring more than 300 students that are members of local MY WAVE Clubs.

Participating students included third to 12th graders from various public schools.

“The last summit we had was actually in 2020 because of the pandemic. We started planning again in 2022 and we were able to bring it back in 2023. It’s been 20 years that we’ve been having summits and events for MTEC as this is actually MTEC’s 20th year in existence. I’m very happy,” said acting MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

According to her, the importance of the MTEC Summit is very simple; bringing together the youth so they can understand their role and the importance of the tourism industry in the CNMI.

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## NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS

Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News\*

\*Source:  
i Minagáhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council  
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands

<https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/>

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## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the MVA Conference Room.

## MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Old Business
  - a. Funding Request
    - i. Tinian Hot Pepper Festival 2023
    - ii. Dedicated Internet Connection – Research Division
  - b. Request to Review and Issue RFP for Office Space
  - c. Acquisition of Riding Mower for MVA Tinian
  - d. Managing Director Position
- 4) Executive Session
- 5) Miscellaneous/Announcements
  - a. Next Regular Board Meeting
  - b. Others
- 6) Adjournment

/s/Gloria Cavanagh  
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



## DLNR cuts operational hours at the Grotto



In this file photo, tourists go down to the Grotto in Marpi to dive and snorkel. Grotto is Saipan's most popular dive spot.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Manuel P. Pangelinan has reduced by one hour the operational hours at the Grotto, effective today, Monday, as part of DLNR's cost-cutting measures.



Pangelinan

Pangelinan told Saipan Tribune over the weekend that they are doing this to prevent DLNR staff from accruing overtime every day, including weekends and holidays.

At present, only one person is assigned to the Grotto, which is located in Marpi. It is considered one of Saipan's

most popular dive spot.

Pangelinan said he is making adjustments and schedule change to avoid or minimize overtime.

"[It's a] proactive approach to cost-cutting measures," he said.

Pangelinan issued a memorandum Friday about the Grotto's new operational hours to the Marianas Visitors Authority and Department of Public Lands.

In that memo, he stated that, due to budgetary constraints and the DLNR management's review of operations at the Grotto in Marpi, DLNR wishes to inform all stakeholders that effective today, Monday, business hours at

Grotto will be between 8am and 4pm. The previous operational hours at Grotto were between 8am and 5pm.

Pangelinan said anyone who has questions and concerns about this may call him at (670) 483-6261.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios designated Pangelinan as the acting DLNR secretary last Tuesday. Pangelinan is currently director for Fish and Wildlife.

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# Orsini sworn in at OES as BOS member

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In a move meant to make the moment a learning opportunity for school children, the inauguration ceremony for Andrew L. Orsini as a member of 18th CNMI State Board of Education representing Saipan was held at the Oleai Elementary School in front of its students last Friday morning.

The ceremony took place shortly after 10am and Orsini, who is on his last term as a BOE member, was joined by other BOE members as well as several of his family members as he

took his oath, which Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio administered.

Orsini said he requested his inauguration to be at OES as all his children attended and graduated there, and his wife, Bertha, is currently a kindergarten teacher there.

In his speech, Orsini reflected on his journey from the beginning. He engaged the students in his speech as he had them say "and it happened!" every time he stated what he accomplished during his time as BOE chairman.

He said he restored working hours for all teachers and staff,

put solar panels in all schools, preserved the local language in immersion programs, gave out free laptops and internet access to students during the pandemic, got vehicles to drop off students, increased salaries of behind-the-scenes support personnel, gave financial incentives to all PSS personnel and had another incentive for them, and ended the debate as to where Hopwood Middle School will be rebuilt.

Orsini said that he is currently working on the rebuilding of HMS, Da'ok Academy, and a Public School System Career & Technical Education

Program center at Marianas High School.

He said he will continue to come up with solutions despite the difficult times ahead as "There's no ARPA funds to be given, no PUA to help us, no lifeboat to save us." Knowing that, he said "My job for the next four years will be to keep the Public School System afloat, and I will do my best to save the turtles and all the sea creatures from being swept by the current."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



LEIGH GASES

Andrew L. Orsini, right, shakes hands with Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio after taking his oath of office during his inauguration ceremony as an 18th CNMI State Board of Education member at the Oleai Elementary School last Friday.

## AUSTERITY

From page 1

pension benefits are all on the table, according to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Wednesday.

He assured though, that, although discontinuing the payment of 25% payment in government retirees' pension was among the many recommendations of the transition team, that step is not a high priority right now.

Speaking at a news briefing Wednesday to update the public about the state of the government's finances, the governor said that government downsizing or furloughs is ab-

solutely on the table as painful as it is for him, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and the Legislature to implement.

He disclosed that they have already started some cost-cutting measures: Palacios said he and Apatang will not allow off-island travel unless it is essential. He said acting Finance secretary Tracy B. Norita has already been instructed to cut down the expenditures of the Executive Branch immediately.

"This journey to economic recovery is not going to be easy. It's [going to] require a lot of hard work, a lot of sacrifices, a lot of thoughts, a lot of humility. But we will come out of this," he said.

Palacios assured that they can work well with the Legislature, other members of the Executive Branch and even with the Judiciary.

On the transition team's recommendation to discontinue the payment of 25% to retirees until everything stabilizes, Palacios said the figures that the transition team found and the misappropriation of public funds and the level of abuse are unprecedented. He said to continue spending at the level that they were spending the first quarter of this fiscal year is just not sustainable.

The CNMI government is mandated by a court settlement order to pay only 75% of gov-

ernment retirees' pensions. The previous Torres administration had been adding into the payment the 25% portion of the pensions to ensure that retirees get 100% of their monthly pensions. Now it looks like that that 25% additional payment may be in jeopardy.

Palacios assured though, that this is something that is at the end of their list. "That's not going to be the top priority that we want to cut. To the extent that we can retain that part of our pension to our retirees, we will retain that," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## BOARDS

From page 1

ments, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that the Senate's role denies or confirms the governor's nominees.

"The call for resignations of governor appointees falls solely under the governor's powers/discretion," DeLeon Guerrero said.

In a memorandum issued Thursday and addressed to

boards and commissions, Palacios said that, as the newly elected governor and lieutenant governor, he and David M. Apatang, are dedicated "to making fresh and meaningful changes that will help to rebuild trust and confidence and guide the CNMI into a brighter future."

In line with this goal, Palacios said, they are asking that all politically appointed board members tender their resignations.

"This request comes out of respect for you and your

work," he said.

Palacios said the knowledge of the agency they were a board member of, and its issues will not be forgotten or discounted, and that collaboration and support is welcomed as the new administration moves forward.

Board and commission members are appointed by the incumbent administration, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The boards and commissions are for the Commonwealth Casino Commission,

Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Election Commission, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Marianas Public Land Trust, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, the CNMI Cannabis Commission, Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Board and commission members serve fixed terms.

## SCAM

From page 1

In a statement over the weekend, King-Nabors, who is chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, said the delegation has received numerous complaints about a flier that has been circulating in the community regarding a "Regional Familiarization Tour" organized by a private company that is charging \$2,500 per person.

He said the payment apparently is non-inclusive of hotel, food, and airfare, to meet government officials on Saipan and Tinian, to include members of the Tinian leadership.

A copy of the flier obtained by *Saipan Tribune*

indicates that the company's name is Sherman Consulting. King-Nabors said yesterday that Sherman Consulting is a local company.

According to the flier, the six-day regional familiarization tour will be from today, Jan. 23, to 28.

The flier states that on the third day, there will be a morning meeting with the governor's military liaison and secretary of the Department of Commerce, lunch with the CNMI Trades Academy, and dinner with Professional Licensing Board member.

The flier also indicates that on the fourth day, the team will travel from Saipan to Tinian, where they will meet the Tinian mayor and other Tinian leaders. On that fourth day, among other apparent

activities, will also be lunch with the U.S. Congressman's Office representative regarding updates on the federal government's plans for Tinian, and dinner with the Tinian delegation.

King-Nabors informed the public that the Tinian delegation has no affiliation with the company and was only made aware that meetings with government officials were scheduled through the fliers that were disseminated via social media.

"More importantly, the TALD finds it disconcerting that meetings with public officials are being monetized in what could potentially be seen as pay-to-play scheme," he said.

The senator strongly encourages any company to visit the island, saying they will welcome with open arms

any qualified company interested in business opportunities in the CNMI. However, King-Nabors said, the idea that companies should pay a fee to meet public officials is wrong.

"While it may not break any laws, this arrangement on its face appears to be unethical and the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation disavows any knowledge or involvement in the organization of these meetings and tour," he said.

King-Nabors said TALD has an open-door policy and, in the interest of transparency and accountability, they encourage companies interested in doing work or investing in the communities to directly reach out to their office to make an official appointment free of charge.

## WEATHER ADVISORIES

### Rip currents until tonight

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents for east facing reefs through tonight. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east facing reefs of the Marianas until late Monday night.

The latest numerical guidance indicates a high likelihood for the high rip risk along east facing reefs.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along east facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to es-

cape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

### Avoid sailing in small craft

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am Tuesday. This means that wind speeds of 20 to 25 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, east winds of 15 to 25 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots, and seas of 7 to 9 feet are building to between 9 and 11 feet today in the coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6am Tuesday. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these hazardous conditions. (PR)

## CHAMBER

From page 1

the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's highest honor during its 2022 "Bowties & Diamonds" Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala last Saturday night at Crowne Plaza Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

"Surprising that I'm not this nervous or worried for a long time about nothing at all because I'm just a regular guy. It's certainly an honor and a privilege to be up here [with] all my peers. ... To all the past awardees, un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase. I'm humbled, I'm extremely humbled," he said.

A diehard Los Angeles Dodgers fan and president of the Saipan Baseball League, Santos confessed that winning

the 2022 Business Person of the Year was the farthest thing from his mind.

"The last time I accepted a nomination was in 2010. I've received a few before then and declined them, because I really don't feel like I'm deserving of this. I'm just a regular guy." However, in 2010 Santos decided to accept the nomination again.

"That was the last time I accepted a nomination. Because nominees aren't privy to who else is nominated for Business Person of the Year and, surely enough, when the announcement came out, much to my dismay, my boss, Mr. Bob Jones, was on that list and thank God he won that year."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



## More NMC graduates pass RN licensure exam

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Jeanelyn Gomez, Minjung Kim, and Michaela Gariguez recently joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN. All three graduates graduated from NMC's nursing program in 2022.

The NCLEX-RN exam is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry level nursing practices correctly.

"I'd like to congratulate Jeanelyn, Minjung, and Michaela on this amazing accomplishment," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. "I wish them all the best in their future endeavors."

NMC nursing department chair Rosa T. Aldan also praised the three for their accomplishments.

"These three amazing students worked very hard to achieve their dreams and I have no doubt that they will succeed in their nursing careers," Aldan added.

Gomez said she wanted to pursue a career in nursing because it is a very respectable career.

"I love the opportunities the nursing field provides," Gomez said. "What kept me motivated throughout the journey was that I would be able to give back to my community by providing care as well as being the inspiration for someone to pursue nursing. My family, friends, and instructors are what encouraged me to do well in my studies and succeed with the exam."

She also said NMC prepared her well for the exam.

"NMC's nursing program has utilized Kaplan to simulate what taking the NCLEX would be like," Gomez said. "The great thing about Kaplan is that it can help you identify what content areas you need to strengthen in order to increase your chances of passing the NCLEX. I am very grateful our program required us to do weekly tests as it prepared me for the exam."

Gomez's advice for graduates who are planning to take the NCLEX-RN exam is to not dwell on what others did to pass. "By this point, you know how you study," Gomez said. "Make a plan that you can stick to and manage your

anxiety. Focus on your goals and do not let fear consume you."

Kim, a classmate of Gomez, said it was her dream to enter into the healthcare field. "Being a nurse has always been a dream



Gomez



Gariguez



Kim

of mine," Kim said. She attributes her success to NMC's use of the Kaplan test prep program.

Kim also encourages other nursing students to work hard and to always make time for studying.

For Gariguez, her pri-

mary motivation for pursuing a nursing degree was wanting to have the knowledge and ability to help family and friends whenever they are sick. (NMC)

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING JANUARY 24, 2023

### U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

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TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2023

From

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You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-833-558-0712, Access Code:27641094237##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: hXqmxUT@323

#### Benefits Workshop Topics:

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HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

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Announcement # JVA23-009

DUTIES:

The successful candidate will work under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge and/or his/her designee, including, but not limited to, the Special Assistant to the Presiding Judge. The JC is responsible for researching, laying the groundwork for, and preparing to establish various specialty courts under the Juvenile Justice Program. The JC also acts as court liaison with various stakeholders to set up various specialty court programs under the juvenile docket. The JC is also responsible for partnering with community stakeholders to assess each juvenile in the juvenile justice system to identify and refer prospective participants to the appropriate specialty court program. The JC is the bridge between Juvenile Court and DCCA Division of Youth Services ("DYS") in all Juvenile matters. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Research and draft legislation for various specialty courts under the Juvenile Justice Program ("specialty courts"), including juvenile mental health court, juvenile drug court, and juvenile DUI court.

• Research and draft policies and procedures for various specialty courts to be established under the Juvenile Justice Program;

• Coordinate, establish, and maintain strategic relationships, establishing parameters to build collaborative efforts with community stakeholders;

• Establish all processes and procedures to be implemented between the community stakeholders and the Juvenile Justice Program;

• Present research and findings to judges, justices, and Judicial Council regarding juvenile specialty courts;

• Assist with the planning, implementing, administering, and monitoring services in accordance with applicable policies and procedures, judicial standards, and applicable statutes (local, state, and federal);

• Contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the specialty courts services under Juvenile Justice Program;

• Maintain and promote positive workflow with all agencies involved in the processing and distribution of Juvenile cases for prospective specialty court participants;

• Participate in staffing and hearings for juvenile cases;

• Coordinate referrals and the initial process for proper assessment, intake, admittance, and treatment services and case management;

• Communicate follow-up/requirements to the interdisciplinary team and collaborate with the interdisciplinary team to achieve optimal resource outcomes;

• Work with families to foster communication and act as a liaison between the specialty courts team and their case managers;

• Track and monitor referred juvenile cases;

• Develop, coordinate, and monitor record-keeping systems for effective program evaluation;

• Attend staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;

• Provide team members with assistance or training as necessary;

• Maintain current knowledge of best practices and national standards governing the administration of specialty courts for the benefit of the Judiciary;

• Maintain knowledge of the judicial system and its interrelationships with community stakeholders;

• Conduct program needs assessment and submits requests for capital expenditures and program enhancements where indicated;

• Maintain liaison and confer with state and federal agencies, private entities, non-profit organizations, and other community groups regarding the implementation of specific specialty courts;

• Draft and submit weekly, quarterly and/or annual reports on program activities and performance benchmarks;

• Prepare budget and program details for specialty courts; and

• Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

The Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent AND must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university. Experience in a human services field(s) such as psychology, social work, sociology, criminology, criminal justice, judicial administration, the court system, or other similar field is preferred. Two (2) years of experience working as a case manager, counselor, or coordinator of related services is also preferred. Candidate must possess writing skills in: 1) policies and procedures; 2) participants' performance contracts; and 3) participants' handbook. The successful candidate must be proficient using a personal computer, including Microsoft Office software suite, possess excellent written and oral communication skills, and be able to work individually and as part of a team. Candidate must maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an

evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE:

This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding. The salary range will be \$45,000 - \$50,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS:

Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices in Tinian at Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary

Human Resources

Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice

P.O. Box 502165

Saipan, MP 96950

Tel. (670) 236-9818

Cell. (670) 783-8592

Fax. (670) 236-9702

hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.gov

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmjudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024

(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011

(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217

(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711

(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.

While the Judiciary offers these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

# Spicy Thai Noodle Place now a ProaPerks partner

Thai restaurant Spicy Thai Noodle Place is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a free iced tea.

Spicy Thai Noodle Place is located on Middle Road, in Puerto Rico. They can be reached by calling (670) 234-3000. More information about their menu items can be found on their Facebook page (@SpicyThaiSPN) or Instagram page (@spicythaisaipan). Companies and other organizations who would like to become

NMC

Spicy Thai Noodle Place is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at [www.marianas.edu/proaperks](http://www.marianas.edu/proaperks).

part of the ProaPerks program emailing [proaperks@marian-](mailto:proaperks@marianas.edu) can find more information by [as.edu](mailto:proaperks@marianas.edu). (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2023

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,576,020.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$515,489.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$80,406.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2023.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 19, 2022.

You may also obtain the application online at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by March 20, 2023, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 20, 2023, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan

February 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian

February 16, 2023 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios

Corporate Director



# Saipan Mayor's Office is 1st to receive ethics training this year

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is the first government entity to receive the Office of the Public Auditor's Government Ethics Code presentation this year, which concluded last Wednesday after a two-part training session at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho and over 80 SMO staff, including all administrative and office personnel, field operations, Street Naming and

Numbering Division, Dog Control Program, and others, sat down in the morning or afternoon training session to either refresh or learn about the do's and don'ts as a government employee through the OPA's Ethics presentation.

The OPA presentation was led by OPA's legal counsel Ashley Kost.

Camacho later said in an interview that ethics "is not new to me. I had this training during my time in law enforcement. So, since I'm the new mayor and I deal with a large [number]

of employees, this is the first thing that I prioritized, which is for them to undergo this training" as a sort of reminder about the do's and don'ts of being a government employee."

"I like this. This [was] a good workshop and I hope that this training goes to other [government] agencies so that we can prevent corruption or future corruption. Employees need to be educated on this subject," said Camacho.

The presentation outlined, defined, and gave examples of acceptable and unacceptable be-

havior and scenarios presented upon government employees.

The topics in the presentation included political activity that is not allowed, gifts and gratuities, filing statements of financial interests, prohibited acts, and conflicts of interests.

Political activity that is not allowed in government offices during government time includes use of public funds, personnel, or equipment for political purposes, campaign for any candidate, and solicitation for political contributions.

On the topic of gifts and gra-

tuities, it stated that acceptance of a gift by a public official or public employee from persons, other than from a spouse, children or specific relatives, is unethical and not allowed. In serving the public interest, both public officials and public employees are expected to be free from the influence of private or business interests.

Topic of filing statements stated that certain government officials and employees are required to file verified Financial Disclosure Statements in order to disclose any possible conflict of interest in the performance of their official duties.

And the topic of prohibited

acts and conflicts of interest stated that a conflict occurs when an official's responsibilities, duties, or activities conflict with the officials' private interests, whether they are of a business, family, social, or other nature. Examples are use of government office or staff for private purposes, use of public position to obtain private benefits, use of public position to obtain benefits for social acquaintances, or participation in contract discussions where a conflict of interest is present.

To learn more about the Government Ethics Code, visit [https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public\\_laws/08/pl08-11.pdf](https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/public_laws/08/pl08-11.pdf)



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)**  
**NMHC IFB 2023-003**

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** February 23, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

**Kagman Community Park Phase II Project**

Project package will be available on January 23, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter. The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan on February 03, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-Bid conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) or mail at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 9650 or via fax at (670)234-9021, no later than 9:00 a.m. February 02, 2023.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)**  
**NMHC IFB 2023-004**

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** February 23, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

**Rehabilitation of the Tinian Little League Baseball Field**

Project package will be available on January 23, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on January 31, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-Bid conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) or mail at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 9650 or via fax at (670)234-9021, no later than 4:00 p.m. January 30, 2023.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**  
(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

**NMHC RFP 2023-002**

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** February 03, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

**Architect-Engineer Services for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Infrastructure Projects**

The RFP packet is available on January 03, 2023, online at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and at [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab". All interested firms shall submit their intent to participate via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All inquiries questions or requests for clarification must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 AM local time on January 16, 2023.

This procurement is in accordance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC §100-60-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) of the NMHC Procurement Regulations. To also include the provisions of NMHC Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §100-60-725 & § 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Merced M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



**NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION**

**2014 TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR SEDAN (Color: Red)**  
**114,957 Miles**  
**Condition: Fair**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$7,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**

1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
  - a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
  - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
  - c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$7,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to bid. All bids less than \$7,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$7,000.00) may be awarded.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



**NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION**

**2017 MITSUBISHI LANCER 4 Door Sedan (Color: Silver)**  
**81,515 Miles**  
**Condition: Poor**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$5,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**

1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
  - a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
  - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
  - c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$5,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to bid. All bids less than \$5,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$5,000.00) may be awarded.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



**NOTICE OF SECOND OPEN AUCTION**

**2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X2 TRUCK (Color: Gray)**  
**52,870 Miles**  
**Condition: Excellent**  
**MINIMUM BID: \$21,000.00**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres or his designee, for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**

1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
  - a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
  - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
  - c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$21,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. Bidders must be present, in person, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5962 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya on January 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to bid. All bids less than \$21,000.00 will be rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a valid identification card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the forfeiture of the accepted bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$21,000.00) may be awarded.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 10th day of January 2023. /s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Once again, Republicans are threatening to tank the economy to get their way

**L**ike the hockey-masked villain in some cheesy horror flick, the GOP's debt ceiling caucus just keeps coming back. Once again, the party's more radical members are threatening to hold America's full faith and credit hostage by refusing to raise the nation's debt limit. The Treasury hit that \$31.4 trillion limit Thursday, meaning it will have to be raised—as it routinely has been over the years, under both parties, to cover expenses incurred by both parties.

As the debate unfolds in coming weeks, Republicans will try to present their refusal as a principled stand for fiscal responsibility. It's not. It is a deliberate threat to America's fiscal stability in hopes of getting presidential concessions on unrelated issues. It's political terrorism, plain and simple.

The debt ceiling is the statutory limit on what the U.S. can borrow to cover past expenditures. That last part is crucial to remember as Republicans begin sowing misinformation about what they're doing when they refuse to approve the periodic raises necessary in the debt limit. It is not refusal to spend but rather refusal to cover spending already authorized by Congress (including, generally, the same Republicans now declining to pay what's owed).

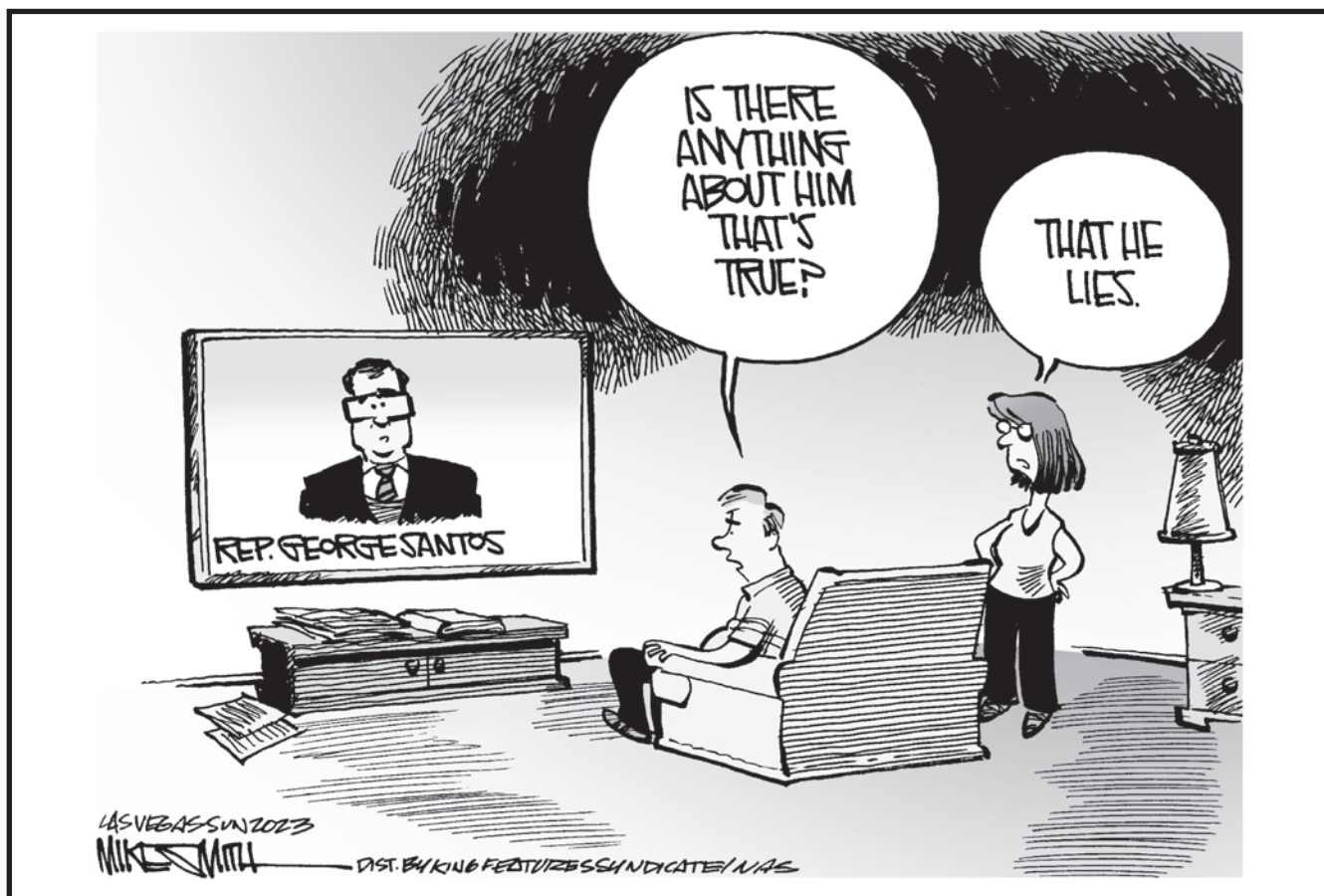
The best analogy is refusing to pay a credit card bill. When individuals do that, their credit rating drops and they end up having to pay more interest. If America ever defaulted on its debts, the same thing would happen—except, the effects would be devastating. There would be convulsions in the national and global economy.

Republicans like Missouri Rep. Jason Smith—the newly seated House Ways and Means chairman, who calls the debt ceiling threat a legitimate “tool” in political negotiations—should recall that the last time their party went to the brink like this, it backfired politically and added to the very deficit they now, suddenly, claim to abhor. The mere threat of it, in 2011, caused the first credit downgrade in the U.S. government's history and cost the taxpayers billions of dollars in added interest. So much for fiscal responsibility.

Yet Republicans are now, again, demanding spending cuts to social programs before they'll allow America to pay its existing bills. This is the same GOP that inflated the deficit by \$1.8 trillion with its 2017 tax cuts to the rich—back when a Republican was president and the party couldn't have cared less about debt. Now they want the poor and the elderly to cover the bill. And they're threatening to tank America's economy if they don't get their way.

Cutting spending isn't in itself a bad idea, but the time to debate it is when the spending is being approved, not when the bill comes due. The White House is refusing—as it should—to negotiate with this fiscal gun to its head. Negotiating with terrorists is never wise.

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## Let's avoid another nuclear arms race

**I**n an annual exercise since 1947, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists sets its Doomsday Clock to provide an educated guess of how close humanity is to the apocalypse. The organization will announce its 2023 clock this month, and I expect the outlook is bleaker.

If the United States responds to rising nuclear danger with more arms control instead of more weapons, it could help push the clock's hands back again.

Last year was a reminder that the nuclear threat most of us spend little time worrying about is only one obstinate autocrat away. Vladimir Putin's saber rattling is the most immediate escalation but not the only one.

The deal to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons isn't even on life support anymore. North Korea spent 2022 firing a record number of missile tests, and Kim Jong Un has promised to expand his country's nuclear capabilities “exponentially” in the new year.

China merits the greatest concern in the long term though. Historically it has maintained a no-first-use policy, keeping a small nuclear arsenal for deterrence, only sufficient to retaliate if attacked, and has not kept its weapons ready to launch, in contrast to the United States and Russia.

But under President Xi Jinping, China's nuclear posture is changing. It is reportedly on track to reach 1,500 warheads by 2035, which would put China on par with the limits that the United States and Russia have agreed to in the New START treaty. China is also building new delivery systems and a network of new silos to house intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The knee-jerk reaction to an increasingly dangerous world is to arm oneself against it even further, and many nuclear hawks are arguing for just that.

But a safer approach would be to avoid a nuclear arms race, not to aim to win it. After all, there are no winners in nuclear conflagration.

The case for expanding the U.S. nuclear arsenal is based on the belief that it is necessary to hedge against opportunistic aggression by increasingly dangerous foes. But more nuclear weapons aren't needed to deter such aggression, and expanding our arsenal will only encourage our foes to do the same.

America's combined conventional and nuclear weapons capabilities are already an effective deterrent to a nuclear strike, as they dwarf the next contender.

Russia today simply isn't the same foe that the Soviet Union was before, when it held nearly twice as many nuclear warheads as the United States, and we believed the Soviet Union had an advantage in conventional war capabilities in Europe as well. The decline of its relative combat power is on display in Ukraine, as is the deterrent effect of U.S. conventional power, which has kept Russia from striking our allies, even as supply lines from NATO countries bolster Ukraine's defense.

North Korea and Iran might be nuclear bogeymen, but using

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**  
Chicago Tribune

*Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.*



them as an excuse to grow our own large nuclear arsenal would be like buying more guns to deter fire ants, when your boot would do the job just fine if needed. If North Korea dared launch a first strike against South Korea, highly accurate U.S. and South Korean precision conventional missiles would be enough to defeat North Korea conventionally.

Even if Iran secures nuclear capabilities, it still lacks the ability to project power into the Gulf or existentially threaten a nuclear-capable Israel, and the promised U.S. response to any nuclear use would quickly wipe out any first-strike advantage Iran could secure.

China is a far more serious foe, but its growing nuclear and conventional capacity still doesn't merit a growing U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Yet China's rapidly growing nuclear arsenal does call for action to limit future risks. The safest and most sensible action is arms control. If the United States presses for arms control and agrees to limits itself, it could convince others to follow suit. If it chooses to build up more instead, others will follow suit as well, only increasing the danger presented by either outright aggression or accident.

The United States has done so before successfully too. During the Cold War, the arms race created the danger. The U.S. and the Soviet Union managed and reduced that danger through communication, hard-fought diplomacy, and transparency.

The two super powers began negotiating arms control in the 1970s, beginning with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and as recently as 2021, the United States and Russia extended the New START Treaty.

The United States must press Russia to return to the constructive role it has played in nonproliferation before and must bring China to the table too. The latter goal could help with the former, as China has more leverage with Russia today than any other country.

President Joe Biden's meeting with Xi in November, which touched on nuclear policy, was a small start. But making progress diplomatically on hard issues requires concessions. The United States won't get them unless it makes some of its own.

Working together with adversaries is hard, but a mutual benefit makes it possible. If we can't find common ground here though, mutually assured destruction becomes more likely as the Doomsday Clock speeds up.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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# US COVID-19 deaths are still high, but let's learn from forecasters' mistakes

By CORY FRANKLIN AND ROBERT WEINSTEIN

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In a recent NFL game, the Indianapolis Colts led the Minnesota Vikings 33-0 at halftime. At that point, Las Vegas was offering odds better than 100-1 the Colts would win, but the Vikings staged a furious second-half rally and won on a field goal in overtime. It was one of the biggest comebacks in NFL history and proved once again that it is not always possible to predict the outcome of an event before it ends.

The same is true of the COVID-19 pandemic as it enters its fourth year. In May 2020, Business Insider CEO Henry Blodget and journalist David Plotz wrote: "Back in January, the United States and South Korea each identified their first confirmed coronavirus case on the same day. South Korea responded immediately and competently, by testing, tracing, and isolating cases and getting ahead of the epidemic. The United States ... never marshaled the strong federal response that could have slowed the outbreak before it really got rolling. Three months later ... South Korea is close to exterminating the virus."

In early 2021, Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer Lawrence Wright critiqued the U.S. COVID-19 response: "We did the worst job in the world." Blodget, Plotz and Wright were merely echoing common sentiments of many medical observers that the U.S. had controlled COVID-19 less capably than any other country.

That was then; this is now. According to Worldometer, an independent website that has provided COVID-19 statistics throughout the pandemic, at least 30 and possibly as many as 50 industrialized countries have had more COVID-19 cases per capita than the U.S. has had. (The number depends on whether small island nations are included.)

As 2020 ended, the U.S. accounted for 25% of the world's COVID-19 cases. Now it accounts for just over 15%, and the fraction is dropping steadily. Some countries that were initially lauded for their COVID-19 response—Singapore, New Zealand and the Czech Republic—have long since passed the U.S. in cases per capita. And South Korea, which was supposedly close to exterminating the virus? Overall cases per capita are now higher than in the U.S. South Korea currently has one of the highest case totals in the world.

There are some important caveats. This data includes officially reported cases and doesn't include many cases identified by home testing or those never reported to public health officials. So while there are more cases in the U.S. than the Worldometer numbers report, there is no indication the U.S. underreports cases disproportionately compared with other countries.

This should not be taken as evidence the U.S. has improved its response dramatically; rather, the newer variants have obviously caught up with other countries. Omicron and subsequent variants have overwhelmed many countries least affected in 2020, despite their policies of social distancing, vaccination and masking.

Since the fall, Japan has had the highest absolute case total in the world. In the first year of the pandemic, Japan had a quarter of a million cumulative cases; it now has more than 100 times that number.

Unfortunately, the U.S. trend line of deaths per capita isn't falling as dramatically as the trend line for total cases. The U.S. is currently 16th in the world in deaths per capita and moving up, behind only Peru and countries in Eastern Europe. For comparison: Deaths and mortality, which is total deaths divided by total cases, are dropping in the U.S. but much slower than in the rest of the world. In addition, according to a study in the journal *Nature*, during the pandemic the U.S. has had one of the world's

highest rates of excess deaths—that is, the number of observed deaths from all causes beyond the expected number if the pandemic had not occurred.

There is no obvious reason U.S. mortality and deaths per capita are higher here than in most of the world. It has little or nothing to do with the varying quality of medical care globally, as some postulated early in the pandemic. Vaccination rates are probably a partial reason—the U.S. rate is lower than in many industrialized countries—but overall, U.S. vaccination rates are higher than those of many countries with lower death rates and lower mortality rates.

The major reason U.S. death rates are comparatively high is probably the high number of high-risk, susceptible patients in its population—a relatively higher percentage of patients who are elderly, obese or immunocompromised than in most other countries. Regardless of the caustic criticism leveled by many science journalists and medical experts, we can't remake the nation's demography. Yes, giving booster shots to high-risk individuals will improve things but will not solve the problem.

Expert predictions do not always age well. In July, Dr. Eric Feigl-Ding, one of the world's most cited public health experts, predicted the United Kingdom could see 60,000 monkeypox cases per day by the end of 2022. Yet in one recent week, there were five total cases and official reporting in the U.K. has stopped due to low case numbers.

Clearly, there are forces at work that no one can understand completely. As bettors cocksure the Colts would trounce the Vikings could have told you.

*Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician. Dr. Robert Weinstein is an infectious disease specialist at Rush University Medical Center.*

# Embattled politicians' strategy is brazenness. Will it work?

It was highly amusing to watch then-Congressman-elect George Santos ducking and weaving to avoid the media scrum on his first day on Capitol Hill. Darting in and out of corridors, chased down the halls by reporters, he often seemed lost but he kept moving, refusing to answer questions about his resume embellishment and the lies he's told about his background.

"Hey George, what's your name today?" one reporter shouted. "You plan to resign?" called another. "Why did you lie on your resume?" Santos wouldn't make eye contact but walked on, stone faced, often talking into his phone, although I doubt anyone was on the other end.

Santos is under extraordinary pressure. Especially when you add the mounting complaints and official investigations to the ceaseless media attention. But, for the moment at least, he shows no sign of caving under the stress or of resigning.

It's not that different from the situation facing Los Angeles City Councilman Kevin de León, who has barely been able to set foot in the council chamber for the last three months because he's dogged everywhere he goes by jeering protesters angry over his offensive comments on a leaked audio recording. De León is ignoring his opponents where possible (except when he physically fights with them) and, like Santos, is refusing to step down. "No, I will not resign because there is a lot of work ahead," he told one interviewer.

Then there's Benjamin Netanyahu, who was just sworn in for the sixth time as prime minister of Israel despite a host of ongoing bribery, fraud and breach of trust charges. His criminal trial has been underway since May 2020, but asked if he'll quit, he says he's not going anywhere. "I feel a deep obligation to continue to lead Israel in a way that will ensure our future," he has explained.

See the pattern? It's the latest trend among politicians accused of wrongdoing: Brazen it out. Stand firm in the face of accusations that in any previous era would likely have ended your career. Pretend to be on the phone, ignore the curses and catcalls, deny the charges. Stonewall. And see what happens.

Because why not give it a shot?

I think of this as the Al Franken effect. Franken, D-Minn., resigned from the U.S. Senate when he was accused of sexual misconduct in 2017 rather than stick around and fight—only to conclude later that he had quit too quickly. His peers and colleagues from both parties watched closely and saw that he might have saved his job if he'd just hung on.

Meanwhile, they were also watching President Donald Trump as he modeled the alternative approach, taking brazening-it-out to a whole new level. When candidate Trump was caught on tape crowing about grabbing women by the genitals, he offered a perfunctory apology and dismissed the brouhaha as "locker room banter."

The Teflon president then withstood two impeachments (as compared with President Richard Nixon, who in 1974 resigned rather than face the possibility of even one), insisting that he was the victim of a "witch hunt."

When Trump ran for reelection, he got 74 million votes.

Wait it out for as long as you can.

It's the height of arrogance and cynicism, of course, to assume that you can just stonewall the voters, and that their anger will fade thanks to their short attention spans. But as often as not, it appears to be a decent strategy.

President Joe Biden himself called on de León, a piddling City Council member, to step down, but he paid no attention.

To be clear, I don't believe politicians should necessarily resign the moment they're accused of wrongdoing. Politicians accused of criminal behavior should have the chance to stand trial and present a defense before they're hung out to dry. Unproven assertions should not destroy careers.

But many of these cases aren't about unproven assertions. Santos, for instance, is facing facts, as far as I can tell. Schools he says he attended, jobs he said he held, property he says he owned, whether he's Jewish—documents and straightforward fact-checking fail to back up his claims. He shouldn't get to just wait this scandal out and then proceed as if everything was normal.

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG

Los Angeles Times

*Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.*



In the end, whether stonewalling works usually comes down not to the gravity of the transgression or even to the quality of the evidence, but to simple politics. Santos could successfully hang on until the voters forget about him—or he could be forced out tomorrow.

"I did nothing wrong, period. I am not resigning," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2021, when he was facing allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct. Three months later, though, he did just that, because he had few political allies left, new allegations kept emerging, and the state's attorney general—from Cuomo's own party—had issued a damning 165-page report on his misbehavior.

Franken quit after losing the support of Senate Democratic leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and other key allies in the early days of the #MeToo movement.

In the case of de León, the politics are still playing out. He seems defiant, even with a recall campaign underway. We'll see if he can avoid resignation.

But the broader point is this: We're living in a time when not only do voters have short attention spans, but when the bar for what constitutes unforgivable misbehavior has been raised beyond previous imagining. Thanks in part to Trump but also to many others, voters are used to their leaders' bad behavior, and even expect it.

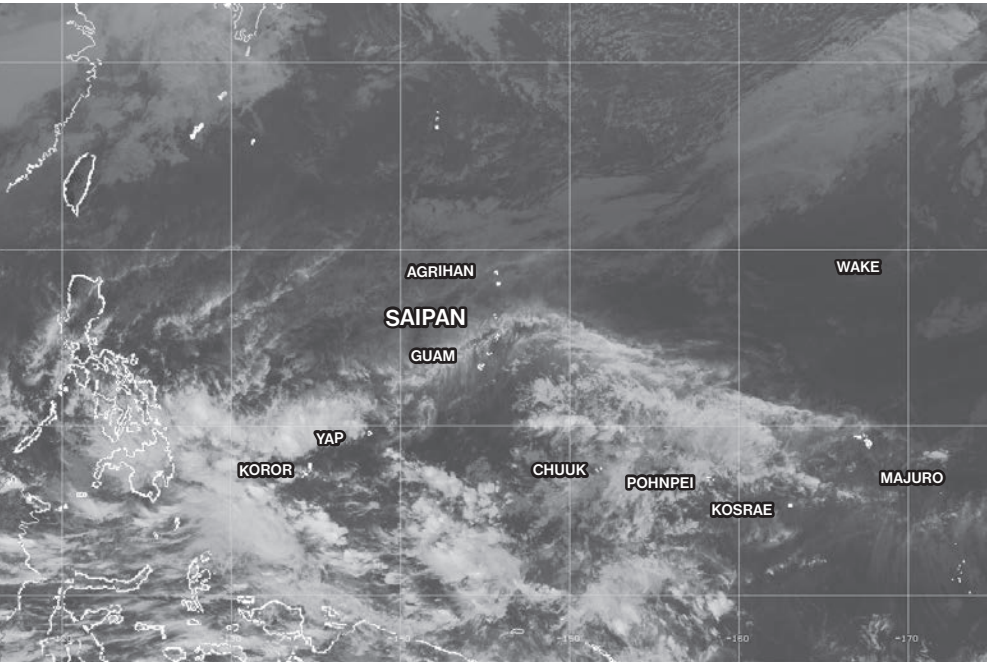
It's no surprise that officials who get caught think they might as well wait and see if the voters will forget or forgive.

But when it comes to serious transgressions—and Santos' repeated lying to voters surely qualifies—they should not.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	76°	86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows our cloud cover is on the increase. The latest altimetry and buoys data shows seas near 8 feet, with a water temperature of 83 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:59 AM	7:42 PM	-
Tuesday	8:49 AM	8:44 PM	-
Wednesday	9:34 AM	9:43 PM	-
Thursday	10:15 AM	10:38 PM	-
Friday	10:54 AM	11:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°	
Honolulu	Windy	77° / 66°	
London	Cloudy	52° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 47°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°	
New York	Rain	61° / 46°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 37°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°	
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°	
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°	
Seoul	Showers	43° / 27°	
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:39 AM	Low Tide	-0.91	
9:45 AM	High Tide	1.87	
3:08 PM	Low Tide	1.04	
8:03 PM	High Tide	1.95	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30AM	7:10AM	2, 4	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:30AM+1	1, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Lion dance, firecrackers signal start of the Year of the Rabbit



BY LEIGH GASES/LEIGH\_GASES@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM/REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Guillaume Delemarle, in black, with his son, and assistant food and beverage director Seiji Shindo, pose for a photo with the two lions after the traditional lion dance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby yesterday morning.

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
Reporter

To ward off evil spirits and welcome good luck as the CNMI hops into the Year of the Rabbit, the Chinese Association of Saipan held a lively lion dance and popped firecrackers with a crowd of about 50 staff and guests at the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday morning during the first day of the Lunar New Year.

Moving to the beat of the drums playing in the background, the red and gold lion wove and bobbed through the lobby into the Kili Cafe and Terrace outside seating and back. After, lines of firecrackers were exploded in the lobby, with the lion dancers still moving to the beat of the drums.

A lettuce offering hung atop the lobby entrance, which the two lions ate and spat out to spread wealth, prosperity, and good luck, was also performed, according to the lion dance Chinese tradition. At

the same time, hóngbǎo or red envelopes filled with money were given to children and others in attendance.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Guillaume Delemarle said he has high hopes hopping into the Year of the Rabbit. "What we foresee for this year is a mind of business. ...The Year of the Rabbit will be a reactivation of the hotel and reactivation of activities in the commu-

nity, because we're still very much affected by COVID, unfortunately, but we see the Year of the Rabbit as the end of that cycle. So, we have very high hopes for this year."

He hopes that Chinese tourists will make their way back to Saipan as soon as possible. "Everybody is really challenged with traveling, but we look forward to welcoming the Chinese community to its full capacity, and even more,

because we love people from China, we love their culture, we love their food. And this will be a big step forward again for the reactivation of our hotel and community. We really look forward to that."

Hyatt Regency marketing and communications manager Bea O'Malley said it was her first time to witness the lion dance at the hotel. She said that with Hyatt celebrating the lunar new year every year at the hotel, "it's part of Hyatt's purpose of care for the community. Hyatt is very inclusive; we welcome every culture and we celebrate every

culture."

After the festivities, Rose Chan from the Chinese Association of Saipan said that "we try to bring happiness for the new year because it is the symbol of Chinese culture. So every year, we just try to do the lion dance all over Saipan to chase evil away and bring happiness and good luck to everybody."

A spectator of the show, Jiaxin Liang who was there for brunch with her family, said that she enjoyed the show. She said the dance and firecrackers are part of the Chinese culture "to make everybody happy

and to have a fun start to the new year."

This year, besides Hyatt, the Chinese Association of Saipan brought their lion dance to the Chinese Association of Saipan, TSL Plaza, JP Center, Century Hotel, Saipan Computer Services, Transamerica, UIC, Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe, CTSI, Aqua Resort Club, Majesty Restaurant, Canton Restaurant, Pho Tam Vietnamese Cuisine, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, iShop, Spicy Thai Noodle Restaurant, Dollar Days, DFS T-Galleria, The ARC, and Pacific Islands Club.



LADYVIR CANAPE

Lion dancers set up in front of the JP Center to perform and bless the business location.



LADYVIR CANAPE

Lion dancers prepare to enter the first floor of the JP Center to perform and bless the business location.



LADYVIR CANAPE

Lion dancers enter the Century Insurance Corp. office at the JP Center in Garapan.

## IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH PALACIOS, APATANG Kilili: Account for CARES Act funds, FEMA forgiven loan, ARPA funds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed over the weekend that he and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang talked last Thursday about the need to account for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds, the \$93 million Federal Emergency Management Agency loan that the U.S. Congress forgave, and the \$483 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that the U.S. Congress appropriated for the Marianas in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that his first

meeting with Palacios and Apatang also took up the state of the Commonwealth government's finances.

Palacios and Apatang had already met with members of the Legislature and the Judiciary, during which they described the CNMI government's financial situation as "dire."

Sablan said he also encouraged Palacios to accept the invitation of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to attend a February 2023 meeting with territorial governors on the state of each of the insular areas.

The annual State of the U.S. Territories gives opportunities

to governors from the five territories to provide highlights and discuss priorities for the upcoming year. U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin called for the committee hearing.

Sablan said he looks forward to working closely with Palacios and Apatang to tackle the many issues affecting the Marianas.

Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor of the U.S. Department of the Interior (International and Insular Affairs) has also encouraged Palacios to participate in the upcoming National Governors' Association Winter Meeting, which includes the Interagency Group on Insular Area Senior Plenary Session.



## Business

## Hyatt offers delightful dinner every Tuesday

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tuesday might as well be hump day at Hyatt Regency Saipan as the CNMI's first brand hotel has introduced its Ora Di Cena four-course menu.

Hyatt executive chef Matteo Fracalossi has a treat for all hardworking Saipan residents out there as Ora Di Cena, which is literally supper time in his native Italian, is surely to leave all diners describing the dishes using superlatives.

"The Ora Di Cena menu was inspired by Tuscan food, mostly because my mum is from there. In each savory course, there is one dish that embraces this beautiful Italian region," he said.

Beginning last Tuesday, Jan. 17, Hyatt started offering Ora Di Cena for dinner at Giovanni's and local media were present to indulge in the gastronomic treat.

"We started this month and this is our attempt to indulge our guests and local residents with dishes that are modern and

fresh interpretations of Italian cuisine," said Fracalossi.

The menu was chock full of intriguing and delightfully sumptuous meals, among them were the pici al sugo d'anatra or traditional homemade Tuscan spaghetti, duck ragout, jus, parmigiano; tagliata di manzo el cafe or certified angus beef tenderloin, coffee crust, root vegetable, mashed potato, jus; and riso coi figo or Venetian-style chicken liver risotto with parmigiano sauce.

Asked what dish he's most proud of, Fracalossi said hands down it would be the Tagliata di manzo.

"First because we use coffee and as everybody knows it's one of the most popular beverage in Italy and here we use it to make a crust for the beef. Second, because it is a re-interpretation of the way the people expect, normally because tagliata should be sliced in multiple pieces but the Italian word actually doesn't tell you how many pieces."

Hyatt food and beverage director Hani Min said Ora di



QUINN BREADY  
Vitello tonnato or piedmont-style roasted veal tenderloin, tuna mayonnaise sauce, capers, and bell pepper salad.

Cena is a fitting successor to their very popular Steak and

Seafood Night.

"We are starting the New



QUINN BREADY  
Pici al sugo d'anatra or traditional homemade Tuscan spaghetti, duck ragout, jus, parmigiano.

Year right with a new offering every Tuesday at Giovanni's. We're focusing on the real Italian dinner experience with our menu selection together with newly resourced Italian premium wines."

As far as future offerings after Ora di Cena, Min said they're actually planning to present new menus every month.

"There will be a special Valentine's menu in February, so our second new Italian set dinner menu will be offered in March, date to be confirmed. Currently our major guest mix is still the local market who prefers buffet

offerings, therefore, we need to check on guest feedback to see more opportunities on set menu offerings to explore more opportunities in the future."

Giovanni's Ora di Cena is available every Tuesday from 6pm to 9pm. It costs \$60 per person and \$110 for two persons. A beverage package (wine/sparkling/beer) for \$18 for two hours is also available. For reservations, call (670) 234-1234 ext. 126.

Club at Hyatt discount applies and for more information log on to saipan.regency.hyatt.com.

## White House to McCarthy: No negotiations on debt limit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says President Joe Biden "looks forward" to sitting down with new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to discuss a range of topics, including perhaps the thorniest challenge confronting Washington this year: raising the nation's debt limit.

One hitch: That statement Friday came with no actual invitation to the White House, and no date nor time for a meeting.

Rather, the White House again emphasized that Biden is not willing to entertain policy concessions in exchange for lifting the debt limit, which is the nation's borrowing au-

thority. The U.S. bumped up against that limit Thursday, and the Treasury Department has deployed "extraordinary measures" to stave off a potential default for at least a few more months.

"Like the president has said many times, raising the debt ceiling is not a negotiation; it is an obligation of this country and its leaders to avoid economic chaos," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in the statement released Friday evening. "Congress has always done it, and the president expects them to do their duty once again. That is not negotiable."

The top two Democrats in

Congress, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, both of New York, will meet with Biden on Tuesday, the White House said.

McCarthy, R-Calif., and his new majority in the House have said they will push changes, such as overhauls to entitlement programs, in order for Congress to raise the debt limit. The promise revived the prospects of a major fiscal standoff like the one in summer 2011, which prompted the first downgrade on a portion of the federal government's AAA bond rating by Standard & Poor's.

"President Biden: I accept

your invitation to sit down and discuss a responsible debt ceiling increase to address irresponsible government spending," McCarthy said on Twitter earlier Friday, after Jean-Pierre said at a briefing that she had no date to share about a meeting between Biden and the speaker.

On the Republican proposals, Jean-Pierre said Biden "looks forward to learning more about those plans."

His treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, also urged lawmakers to act expeditiously on increasing the limit, saying the Treasury Department does not collect enough in taxes to cover the spending that Congress has authorized.



QUINN BREADY  
Tagliato de mango al caffe or certified angus beef tenderloin, coffee crust, root vegetable, mashed potato, jus.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Prosecutors: Convicted CEO Elizabeth Holmes is a flight risk

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Elizabeth Holmes is a flight risk and shouldn't be allowed to stay out of prison while she appeals her 11-year prison sentence for defrauding investors, federal prosecutors said in court documents.

Holmes had a one-way plane ticket to Mexico booked for Jan. 26, 2022, three weeks after being convicted by a jury on four counts of fraud and conspiracy, federal prosecutors said in a motion filed Thursday in federal court in Northern California.

Holmes, who was CEO of Theranos during the company's turbulent 15-year history, was convicted in a scheme that revolved around the company's claims to have developed a medical device that could detect a multitude of diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood. But the technology never worked, and the claims were false.

## Justice Department investigating Abbott baby formula plant

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the Abbott Laboratories infant formula plant in

Michigan that was shut down for months last year due to contamination, the company confirmed.

The factory's closure in February 2022 was a key cause of a nationwide baby formula shortage that forced parents to seek formula from food banks, friends and doctor's offices. Production restarted in June.

The Justice Department has informed Abbott of its investigation and the company is "cooperating fully," Abbott spokesperson Scott Stoffel said via email. He declined to provide further details.

The investigation was first

reported by The Wall Street Journal, which said the Justice Department's consumer protection branch is looking into conduct at the Sturgis, Michigan, plant that led to its shutdown.

Abbott closed the factory after the Food and Drug Administration began investigating four bacterial infections among infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant. Inspectors uncovered several violations at the plant, including bacterial contamination, a leaky roof and lax safety protocols. But Abbott has stated that its products have not been directly linked to the infections, which involved dif-

ferent bacterial strains.

## 2 Minnesota brothers investigated in TikTok gambling scheme

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Investigators in Minnesota are looking into allegations two men have been running a TikTok gambling scheme in the state's casinos.

Court filings this week indicate the state Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division is investigating allegations that an Edina man and his younger brother have been collecting fees for playing slots on behalf of others watching TikTok, the Minneapolis Star

Tribune reported. State law prohibits placing bets on behalf of someone else. No one has been charged so far.

A search warrant affidavit alleged the Edina man used cash apps to collect an initial \$5.99 subscription fee as well as \$25 for every \$100 deposited for wagering. He then streamed live as he and sometimes his brother played the slots. Court filings indicated the two have been running the operation at the Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake and the Treasure Island Resort & Casino just outside Red Wing. One of their sessions ended just before dawn Thursday.



# Nation

## FBI's search of Biden's home finds items marked classified

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI searched President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, on Friday and located additional documents with classified markings and also took possession of some of his handwritten notes, the president's lawyer said Saturday.

The president voluntarily allowed the FBI into his home, but the lack of a search warrant did not dim the extraordinary nature of the search. It compounded the embarrassment to Biden that started with the disclosure Jan. 12 that the president's attorneys had found a "small number" of classified records at a former office at the Penn Biden Center in Washington shortly before the midterm elections. Since then, attorneys found six classified documents in Biden's Wilmington home library from his time as vice president.

Though Biden has maintained "there's no there there," the discoveries have become a political liability as he prepares to launch a reelection bid, and they undercut his efforts to portray an image of propriety to the American public after the tumultuous presidency of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

During Friday's search, which lasted nearly 13 hours,

the FBI took six items that contained documents with classified markings, said Bob Bauer, the president's personal lawyer. The items spanned Biden's time in the Senate and the vice presidency, while the notes dated to his time as vice president, he said. The level of classification, and whether the documents removed by the FBI remained classified, was not immediately clear as the Justice Department reviews the records.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Fitzpatrick confirmed Saturday that the FBI had executed "a planned, consensual search" of the president's residence in Wilmington.

The president and first lady Jill Biden were not at the home when it was searched. They were spending the weekend at their home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Speaking to reporters during a trip to California on Thursday, Biden said he was "fully cooperating and looking forward to getting this resolved quickly."

"We found a handful of documents were filed in the wrong place," Biden said. "We immediately turned them over to the Archives and the Justice

Department."

It remained to be seen whether additional searches by federal officials of other locations might be conducted. Biden's personal attorneys previously conducted a search of the Rehoboth Beach residence and said they did not find any official documents or classified records.

The Biden investigation has also complicated the Justice Department's probe into Trump's retention of classified documents and official records after he left office. The Justice Department says Trump took hundreds of records marked classified with him upon leaving the White House in early 2021 and resisted months of requests to return them to the government, and that it had to obtain a search warrant to retrieve them.

Bauer said the FBI requested that the White House not comment on the search before it was conducted, and that Biden's personal and White House attorneys were present. The FBI, he added, "had full access to the President's home, including personally handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, to-do lists, schedules, and reminders going back decades."

## Violent protest in downtown Atlanta over killing of activist

ATLANTA (AP)—A protest turned violent in downtown Atlanta on Saturday night in the wake of the death of an environmental activist who was killed by authorities this week after officials said the 26-year-old shot a state trooper.

Masked activists dressed in all black threw rocks and lit fireworks in front of a skyscraper that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation, shattering large glass windows. They then lit a police cruiser on fire, smashed more windows and vandalized walls with anti-police graffiti as stunned tourists scattered.

The violent protesters were a subsection of hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered and marched up Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street to mourn the death of the protester, a nonbinary person who went by the name Tortugueta and used they/it pronouns.

Tortugueta was killed Wednesday as authorities cleared a small group of protesters from the site of a planned Atlanta-area public safety training center that activists have dubbed "Cop City."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said Tortu-

guita was killed by officers after shooting and wounding a state trooper, but activists have questioned officials' version of events, calling it a "murder" and demanding an independent investigation.

According to the GBI, the incident was not recorded on body cameras. The bureau said Friday that it determined the trooper was shot in the abdomen by a bullet from a handgun that was in Tortugueta's possession.

Word of Saturday's protest had been widely circulated ahead of time on social media and among leftist activists, with some passing out flyers that read, "Police killed a protester. Stand up. Fight back."

Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said during a news conference that authorities made six arrests Saturday and recovered explosive devices after the protesters damaged property along Peachtree Street, a corridor of hotels and restaurants. He said authorities halted the violence within two blocks and no citizens or law enforcement officers were injured.

"We can tell now, early in this investigation, this was

not the focus tonight just to damage the windows of three buildings and set a police car on fire," Schierbaum said. "The intent was to continue to do harm, and that did not happen."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp decried the violence and thanked responding officers.

"Violence and unlawful destruction of property are not acts of protest," the Republican governor tweeted. "They are crimes that will not be tolerated in Georgia and will be prosecuted fully."

The initial hour of the demonstration had been peaceful as a few activists shared their memories of Tortugueta, describing them as an extremely loving, caring member of the "Stop Cop City" community. The speakers said Tortugueta had undergone a 20-hour medical course in order to serve as a medic for fellow "forest defenders" who had found their home in the DeKalb County woods just outside Atlanta city limits.

Opponents of the training center have been protesting for over a year by building platforms in surrounding trees and camping out at the site.

# World

## Chris Hipkins confirmed as New Zealand prime minister



Chris Hipkins, right, and Carmel Sepuloni arrive for a press conference at Parliament in Wellington, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Chris Hipkins was confirmed Sunday as New Zealand's next prime minister and he chose Carmel Sepuloni as his deputy, marking the first time a person with Pacific Island heritage has risen to that rank.

Hipkins got the unanimous support of lawmakers from his Labour Party after he was the only candidate to enter the contest to replace Jacinda Ardern, who shocked the nation Thursday when she announced she was resigning after more than five years as leader.

Hipkins will be officially sworn in to his new role on Wednesday. He will have less

than nine months before contesting a tough general election, with opinion polls indicating his party is trailing its conservative opposition.

The lack of other candidates for leader indicated that party lawmakers had rallied behind Hipkins to avoid a drawn-out contest and any sign of disunity following Ardern's departure.

In setting out his priorities, Hipkins said he knew many families were struggling due to the "pandemic of inflation" and that the economy would be central to his government's thinking.

When asked if he would take on the same transformational approach to government

that Ardern had promised after first winning the top job, Hipkins indicated he wanted to get back to basics.

"We will deliver a very solid government that is focused on the bread-and-butter issues that matter to New Zealanders, and that are relevant to the times that we are in now," Hipkins said. "2017 was five-and-a-half years ago, and quite a lot has happened since then."

Like Hipkins, Sepuloni first became a lawmaker 15 years ago and has most recently taken on the social development and employment portfolios as one of the government's top ministers.

She said it was "very hard to fathom that a working-class girl" from a small New Zealand town could end up as deputy prime minister.

"I want to acknowledge the significance of this for our Pacific community," Sepuloni said. "I am proudly Samoan, Tongan, and New Zealand European, and represent generations of New Zealanders with mixed heritage."

Sepuloni said she'd already been receiving lots of humbling messages about another glass ceiling being smashed.

Opposition leader Christopher Luxon told reporters he'd congratulated Hipkins by text. But Luxon said Hipkins and Sepuloni had been part of a government that had "failed spectacularly" to get things done and that after the leadership change, it would be more of the same.

## Ukraine's Zelenskyy honors those killed in helicopter crash

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held an emotional meeting Saturday with the families of those who died in a helicopter crash earlier this week.

Zelenskyy spoke with family members of seven of those killed in Wednesday's crash in the Brovary area of Kyiv, the capital city. The helicopter carrying Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi and other top officials slammed into a kindergarten building in the residential suburb, killing him and about a dozen other people, including a child on the ground.

Monastyrskyi, who oversaw the country's police and emergency services, was the most senior official killed since Russia invaded Ukraine. His death, along with the rest of his ministry's leadership

and the entire helicopter crew, was the second major calamity in four days to befall Ukraine, after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, killing dozens of civilians.

At the somber service in Kyiv, Zelenskyy and his wife laid flowers on each of the seven coffins draped in the blue and yellow flags of Ukraine. Zelenskyy then spoke briefly with the families, as a small orchestra played a mournful adagio.

The cause of the crash isn't known, but Zelenskyy said earlier that it happened because the country is at war. That view was repeated by Ruslan Stefanchuk, chairman of Ukraine's parliament, speaking after the service.

"All this would not have happened if not for this terrible and undeclared war which the

Russian Federation is waging against Ukraine," Stefanchuk said. "Therefore, we must remember this and not forget these people. Because for Ukraine and Ukrainians, every lost life is a great tragedy."

Russia's war in Ukraine, which started nearly a year ago, is "in a state of deadlock," with Ukrainian forces likely achieving small gains in the northeast, near the town of Kramatorsk, while Russian forces "have likely been reconstituting" in the eastern town of Soledar after taking it earlier in the week, the U.K. defense ministry said Saturday.

"There is a realistic possibility of local Russian advances" around Bakhmut, an eastern city whose capture would give the Kremlin a long-awaited victory after months of battlefield setbacks, the U.K. ministry said.



# Health and Wellness

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## SOGGY SHEETS, EMBARRASSED KIDS:

# Tips for overcoming bed-wetting

"Mom, dad? I'm wet."

Parents quickly spring into action when they hear these words. Changing wet sheets and comforting an upset or embarrassed child isn't fun for anyone in the middle of the night.

Many families struggle with bed-wetting. It's a normal part of child development. It isn't anyone's fault, but that doesn't mean it can't be stressful, especially for older kids. Here's what you need to know about this common condition.

### Types of bed-wetting

Bed-wetting, also known as nocturnal incontinence or nocturnal enuresis, is the involuntary release of urine while asleep. It happens after the age at which staying dry at night is reasonably expected. Bed-wetting up to age 7 is common and not a concern. Most kids outgrow bed-wetting on their own by the time they are 12.

There are two general types of bed-wetting:

—Primary bed-wetting: This is when a child has not been able to stay dry through the night. This usually happens in younger children. For example, the child may be able to remain dry during the day, but needs to wear a pull-up while asleep.

—Secondary bed-wetting: This is a reoccurrence of bed-wetting. The child has been able to stay dry at night for a long period, six months or longer, but then starts having trouble again at an older age.

For example, a child that has been dry at night since age 4, but then starts wetting the bed again at age 6.

### Causes of bed-wetting

When a child starts to experience bed-wetting, especially secondary bed-wetting, we work with parents to figure out why it is happening. There is a strong family connection with bed-wetting. About 40% to 50% of kids with nocturnal bed-wetting had a parent who struggled with bed-wetting as a child.

Other possible causes include:

- Diabetes
- Urinary tract infection
- Vaginitis
- Deep sleeper
- Small bladder or bladder nerves slow to mature
- Chronic constipation

### Tips for helping a child stay dry

Treatment usually isn't necessary for primary bed-wetting or children under 7. A watch-and-see approach is usually the best option, as we can expect an 8% to 10% improvement every year the child grows. Most children outgrow bed-wetting on their own.

There are things that parents can do to help a child with secondary bed-wetting or who is older than 7, including:

■ **Restrict fluids in the evening.** Encourage the child to drink plenty of fluids during the day to remain hydrated and reduce thirst in the eve-

ning. Avoid high-sugar or caffeinated drinks during the evening. Restrict drinks within two hours of bedtime.

■ **Build voiding into the bedtime routine.** Start the bedtime routine by urinating and then encourage the child to go again before falling asleep.

■ **Set alarm for overnight voiding.** Some children can stay dry by voiding in the middle of the night. For example, a parent can set the alarm to wake the child at midnight, the child uses the bathroom and then returns to bed.

■ **Use a moisture alarm.** These over-the-counter pads, also called bed-wetting alarms, are connected to a battery-operated alarm. This approach takes time, motivation and patience. It can take one to three months to see results, but this option is low-risk and may be a better long-term solution than medications.

■ **Try prescription medications.** Occasionally, a child could be prescribed desmopressin as a short-term solution for bed-wetting. This medication retains water in the body, so the child's bladder does not get too full overnight. There are a few possible side effects with medication, which should be discussed with your child's health care team. The medication is more effective in older children, and the overall success rate is about 30%. Usually, other strategies, including time, are tried before medications.



About 40% to 50% of kids with nocturnal bed-wetting had a parent who struggled with bed-wetting as a child.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

### What not to do

Bed-wetting can be frustrating and embarrassing for children. It can cause anxiety, especially for children planning sleepovers with friends. Children look to their parents for their response to the situation and for acceptance regardless of their struggles.

If your child is experiencing secondary bed-wetting, here are four things you should not do:

■ **Reprimand or scold.** Children don't wet the bed because of laziness or spite. Yelling or expressing your disappointment does not help children's bed-wetting and can hurt their confidence.

■ **Withhold liquids all day.** Depending on age, chil-

dren need between 4 and 8 cups of water each day to remain hydrated. This improves mood, memory, energy and attention while decreasing the risk of constipation. Consider restricting liquids in the evenings, but encourage fluids during the day.

■ **Purposely embarrass your child.** Discussing children's bed-wetting with peers or family can increase anxiety and embarrassment. It doesn't motivate and can create lasting emotional scars.

■ **Compare children.** All children are different and develop at their own rates. They can't control how quickly the nerves in their bladders mature or their bladder sizes. Don't compare children to

siblings or peers, as this will only increase stress and lower self-esteem.

■ **Expect instant results.** Sometimes, all a child needs is time and a supportive parent. There are no quick fixes for solving bed-wetting. Be patient, kind and compassionate.

Remember, bed-wetting isn't anyone's fault. Your child isn't lazy and isn't doing it on purpose. Most likely, it's a familial gift passed down by one of the parents.

Talk with your child's health care team about weight loss, burning or cloudy urine, daytime incontinence, or increased thirst, as they could be a sign of a different, treatable condition. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

## Record-low percentage of Americans are happy with health care quality, poll finds

By BRENDAN RASCIUS  
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

For the first time in decades, a majority of Americans view health care quality as subpar, potentially a reflection of growing dissatisfaction with high costs and recent policy changes, new polling reveals.

Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said health care quality was "excellent" or "good," while a slight majority, 52%, said it was "only fair" or "poor," according to Gallup's annual Health and Healthcare survey, which has been administered since 2001.

The poll of 1,020 adults was conducted Nov. 9-Dec. 2 with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The latest results fall well below the 62% satisfaction rating recorded in 2010 and 2012, and trail the average satisfaction rating by seven points.

One factor contributing to the downward trend is Republicans' souring opinion of the health care industry since Donald Trump left office, according to the poll. In 2019, 75% of GOP supporters rated

health care quality as excellent or good, whereas in 2022, only 56% said the same.

Meanwhile, Democrats have held steady with their 44% satisfaction rating.

Young adults, too, have helped curtail positive ratings over the past year. It's possible that policy decisions enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic or decreased access to abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision factored into their dampened opinions, researchers said.

In addition to record-low ratings of health care quality in general, Americans' assessment of their own personal health care is also at a low point. Seventy-two percent rated it as excellent or good, a decrease from the past several years.

This year's decline is exclusively a product of young adult dissatisfaction, researchers said. Hardly half of those aged 18 to 34 are "upbeat about the quality of care they receive, versus 72% of those 35 to 54 and 85% of those 55 and older."

However, a mismatch was revealed when researchers

asked respondents to rate the country's coverage versus their own. Only one-third said they were satisfied with national coverage, but two-thirds were satisfied with their own.

Additionally, a paltry 24% of respondents were satisfied with the cost of health care, while 76% were dissatisfied.

A similar poll, conducted in 2016 by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, found that while Americans were generally content with their health care, they encountered "significant problems with health care costs."

Americans have long spent more for their health care than any other developed country, according to Johns Hopkins University research. Elevated drug prices, higher salaries and hospital administration costs are the main factors driving the above-average costs.

In a 2020 global survey of health care quality, Australia, the Netherlands and Great Britain received the highest ratings—all of them being over 74%, according to Ipsos. The United States placed sixth with 71% approval.

## Eating less beats intermittent fasting for weight loss, study says

By LOW DE WEI  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Eating smaller meals and cutting calories is a more effective way to manage weight than intermittent fasting, when consumption is restricted to a narrow window of time.

That's the conclusion of researchers from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine who studied the eating, sleeping and waking patterns of 547 adults over a six-month period. Their findings appear Wednesday in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Participants were asked to track their activities and meals on a bespoke mobile app, giving researchers insight about the amount of time they spent between waking up and eating, the span between their first and last meals of the day

and the period between their last meal and sleeping. The scientists concluded meal times weren't associated with weight change.

"Our findings did not support the use of time-restricted eating as a strategy for long-term weight loss in a general medical population," they concluded.

That may throw a wrench in popular diets, including intermittent fasting, which can involve skipping meals for as long as a day. The study found fewer, small meals were associated with dropping weight.

New approaches and drug treatments to hasten weight loss are being sought globally, as obesity rates continue to grow in developed economies. About 40% of Americans are obese, with severe obesity also increasing among children.

The study also found:

■ The average time from waking up to eating was 1.6 hours

■ The average time from first meal to last meal was 11.5 hours, and wasn't associated with weight change

■ The average time between the last meal of the day and going to bed was 4 hours

■ Average sleep duration was 7.5 hours

The research has some caveats. The average age of those studied was 51, and the majority—about eight in ten—were white. Most were college-educated women in the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S., and it's unclear if the findings apply to other groups.

Still, the researchers found a link between eating more frequent, large meals and weight gain throughout the six years of follow-up study.



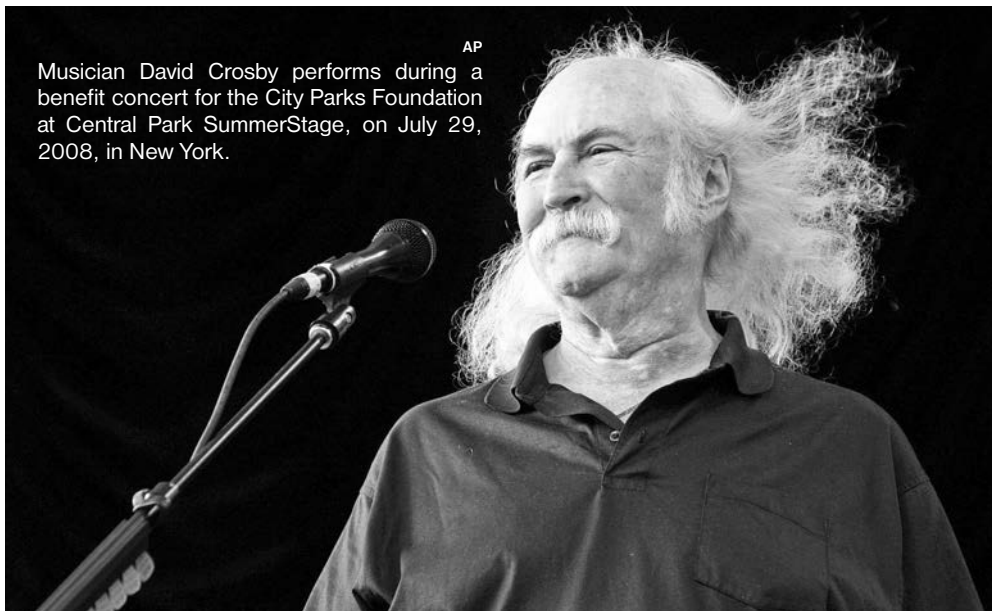
# Life & Style

## Reports: David Crosby, rock star and CSNY co-founder, dies

By **ROBERT JABLON**  
Associated Press

David Crosby, the brash rock musician who evolved from a baby-faced harmony singer with the Byrds to a mustachioed hippie superstar and an ongoing troubadour in Crosby, Stills, Nash & (sometimes) Young, has died at 81, several media outlets reported Thursday.

The New York Times reported, based on a text message from Crosby's sister in law, that the musician died Wednesday night. Several media outlets reported Crosby's death citing anonymous sources; The Associated Press was unable to reach Crosby's



AP  
Musician David Crosby performs during a benefit concert for the City Parks Foundation at Central Park SummerStage, on July 29, 2008, in New York.

representatives and his widow.

Crosby underwent a liver transplant in 1994 after decades of drug use and survived diabetes, hepatitis C and heart surgery in his 70s.

While he only wrote a handful of widely known songs, the witty and ever opinionated Crosby was on the front lines of the cultural revolution of the '60s and '70s—whether triumphing with Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young on stage at Woodstock, testifying on behalf of a hirsute generation in his anthem "Almost Cut My Hair" or mourning the assassination of Robert Kennedy in "Long Time Gone."

He was a founder and focus of the Los Angeles rock music community from which such performers as the Eagles and Jackson Browne later emerged. He was a twinkly-eyed hippie

patriarch, the inspiration for Dennis Hopper's long-haired stoner in "Easy Rider." He advocated for peace, but was an unrepentant loudmouth who practiced personal warfare and acknowledged that many of the musicians he worked with no longer spoke to him.

"Crosby was a colorful and unpredictable character, wore a Mandrake the Magician cape, didn't get along with too many people and had a beautiful voice—an architect of harmony," Bob Dylan wrote in his 2004 memoir, "Chronicles: Volume One."

Crosby's drug use left him bloated, broke and alienated. He kicked the addiction in 1985 and 1986 during a year's prison stretch in Texas on drug and weapons charges. The conviction eventually was overturned.

## Coroner says actor Leslie Jordan died of natural causes

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Leslie Jordan, the actor whose wry Southern drawl and versatility made him a standout on TV series including "Will & Grace" and "American Horror Story," died from natural causes and not from a car accident last year, the Los Angeles



Jordan

County coroner's office has concluded.

The 67-year-old actor died of sudden cardiac dysfunction due to arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, according to a report by the Los Angeles County Department of

Medical Examiner-Coroner.

Arteriosclerosis is hardening of the arteries that can restrict blood flow.

Jordan died at the scene after his car crashed in the Hollywood area Oct. 24.

An autopsy didn't find any signs of life-threatening trauma, according to the coroner's report, which listed the cause of death as natural.

Jordan had been sober for more than two decades at the

time of his death, and toxicology tests didn't find any alcohol or drugs in his body.

The 4-foot-11 Tennessee native was known for both comic and dramatic roles. He won an outstanding guest actor Emmy in 2005 for his part as Beverly Leslie in "Will & Grace," had a recurring role on the Mayim Bialik comedy "Call Me Kat" and starred on the sitcom "The Cool Kids."

## Prince Harry's memoir 'Spare' sells 3.2M copies in 1st week

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Harry's "Spare" sold more than 3.2 million copies worldwide after just one week of publication and will likely rank among the bestselling memoirs of all time.

Penguin Random House announced Thursday that Prince Harry's headline-making memoir sold 1.6 million copies in the U.S. alone. It's a number comparable to first week sales

for blockbusters such as former President Barack Obama's "A Promised Land" and former first lady Michelle Obama's "Becoming," which has sold more than 17 million copies since coming out in 2018.

The British publisher announced last week that "Spare" sold 400,000 copies in the United Kingdom in all formats—hardback, e-book and audio—on its first day.

The total sales announced for "Spare" are for print, audio and digital editions in the major English-language markets: the U.S., U.K., Canada and Australia. The book has come out in 15 other languages, and editions in 10 additional languages are expected.

"Spare" may set records for nonfiction, but no book in memory approaches the pace of the final Harry Potter novel,

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," which in 2007 sold more than 10 million copies in its first 24 hours.

Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, worked on his book with American novelist J.R. Moehringer, who also helped write Andre Agassi's acclaimed "Open" and is the author of "The Tender Bar," a memoir adapted by George Clooney into a movie starring Ben Affleck.

## 'All Quiet on the Western Front' leads race for BAFTA awards

LONDON (AP)—Visceral German-language war drama "All Quiet on the Western Front" got a field-leading 14 nominations on Thursday for the British Academy Film Awards, with genre-bending comedies "The Banshees of Inisherin" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once" each nominated in 10 categories.

"All Quiet," an unflinching adaptation of a classic antiwar novel about life and death in the World War I trenches, was a surprise front-runner, up for awards including best film and best director, for Edward Berger. Its tally of nominations is a joint record for a film not in the English lan-

guage, equaling the 14 for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" in 2001.

Berger said the film's team was "speechless and overwhelmed" by the raft of nominations.

Felix Kammerer, who plays the film's central character, Paul, said the film's tragic relevance to today had struck a chord with audiences.

"We see a lot of reaction by people who tell us it's so jarring to see ... images from Ukraine, and to see the images in this movie. And they are hardly distinguishable," he told The Associated Press.

"What stays the same, like 100 years ago, is the horror and the brutality."

## Partner's affair sparked by perceived lack of affection

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm in a three-year relationship, but my significant other, "Ron," is extremely cautious about emotional attachment. It took him two years to tell me he loves me or even to express any form of serious affection. In addition, he's consumed by his job and worries about how his co-workers perceive him. He seems to prioritize work relationships over our relationship.

Because I have been depressed by the meager affection he shows me, I began an intimate relationship with a former co-worker, "Dan." Dan expresses no reservations or restraint in his feelings for me. He makes me feel appreciated, beautiful and loved.

I have strong feelings for them both and realize I have created a horrible situation. I don't want to abandon a stable, caring relationship that was cultivated over three years, and I'm terrified that ending the relationship in favor of one with Dan would be something I'll regret later. But I'm unwilling to break things off with Dan. I'd appreciate any advice.

**TWO-TIMER ON THE EAST COAST**

**DEAR 'TWO-TIMER':** I'll try. Because your relationship with Ron left you feeling so empty that you went looking for solace in another man's arms, ask yourself

whether you really love Ron or just the challenge of getting him to finally commit to you. You are unwilling to give Dan up because he gives you affection and validation, which are vital in a long-term relationship.

**Recognize that you are cheating on both men, which is fair to neither one—and do not think that Ron won't find out. If you want to spend your life with an emotionally unavailable workaholic, do the honorable thing and break up with Dan. If what you have been getting from Dan is more important to you, well, you know the drill.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My oldest daughter recently had her first child. She sent out christening invitations a month early after clearing the date with the godparents, church and venue.

My youngest adult daughter, who has two children and lives nearby, declined the invite. (She is not the godparent.) Her reason was that she and her family had tickets to a ballgame on the same day as the christening. I suggested that only she attend and have another relative go to the game in her place, but was told she should be at the game with her family. Your thoughts?

**PRIORITIES IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR PRIORITIES:** My first thought is that your

## DEAR ABBY

BY **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**younger daughter ranks her love of sports above her love for her sister. My second thought is that her priorities are out of whack. Could there be bad blood between them? Long after that ballgame is over and forgotten, the memory of her absence at that important family event will be remembered by the relatives she snubbed.**

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



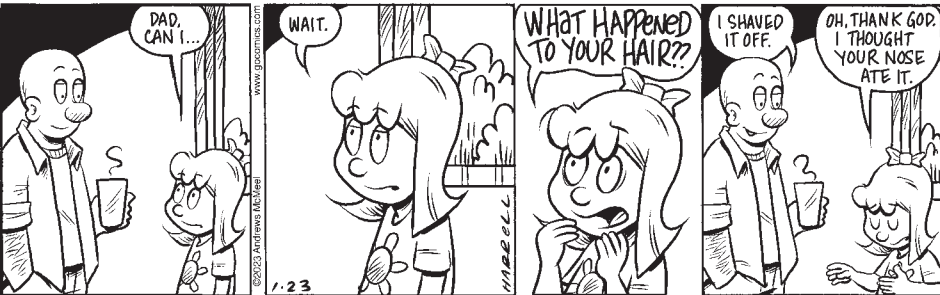
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



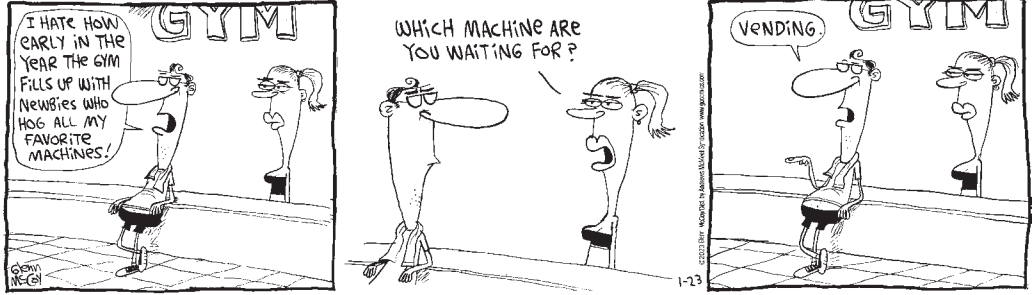
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Vinyl records 57 Flintstones' pet 17 "Science guy" Bill O'Grady, 60; Richard Dean Anderson, 73. Happy Birthday: Evaluate, organize and set your plans into motion. Take the edge off by keeping busy. Overload your schedule and see what you enjoy most. Once you see progress and things fall into place, eliminate whatever is not doing as well as anticipated, and you'll find the perfect balance to reach the solution you crave. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 25, 31, 39, 43.

DOWN 22 Mascara mishap 24 Use a shovel 25 Year, in San Juan 26 Small songbirds 27 Summary 29 Co. that created Watson 30 Dance club VIPs 33 Alike (Fr.) 36 Most fitting 38 Not suitable for kids 40 Kinsey study 42 Genesis brother 43 Powerful wind 44 Popcorn seasoning 46 "Kon-—" 47 Tied 48 Mediocre 50 Club —

Solution time: 26 mins.

OWL SLAV HAMS  
PHO PARE ALEE  
TICKLISH NINE  
SPIRIT IPO  
ICY CRITIC  
WHALE SLY ORA  
HALL PIE SOOT  
BOAR CAN DUNNE  
TICKER KAI  
SPAR ELF ALTERS  
BOAR ISLA CPA  
AWAY TAOS HAT

Last Friday's Answer 01/23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tifani Thiessen, 49; Mariska Hargitay, 59; Gail O'Grady, 60; Richard Dean Anderson, 73. Happy Birthday: Evaluate, organize and set your plans into motion. Take the edge off by keeping busy. Overload your schedule and see what you enjoy most. Once you see progress and things fall into place, eliminate whatever is not doing as well as anticipated, and you'll find the perfect balance to reach the solution you crave. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 25, 31, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Temptation will occur if you don't take precautions. Too much of anything will lead to loss. Invest in your health, appearance and attributes, and fine-tune your chance to advance. Join forces with those who share your beliefs and concerns. \*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. Apply what you know. Speak highly of yourself. Choose to outsmart whoever gets in your way. Strengthen your position. \*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your emotions aside and change whatever is weighing you down. Recognize the possibilities and enforce a minimalist attitude; everything will start to fall into place. A commitment you make will have a positive influence on your reputation and position. \*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rely on your intuition to guide you in the right direction. A problem with authority figures, institutions or government agencies will

surface if you neglect to update documents. Put a cap on how much you do for others. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't take your eye off the ball. There will be plenty going on in your world that needs your attention. A partnership or agreement will need tweaking if it's going to work for you. Honesty and integrity may be issues. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of plans will play in your favor. Don't let anger sabotage an opportunity. If someone confuses you, be direct and refuse to falter. Invest in your skills, knowledge and experience, and turn your attributes and know-how into hot commodities. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plan to get together with like-minded people or attend a networking session; something good will transpire. Take a position of leadership; doors will open and opportunities will be granted. Dress for success and mix business with pleasure. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't ignore what's happening around you. Observation is your best friend and will guide you to make the right decisions when dealing with domestic issues and those who influence your life. Don't be afraid to take the road less traveled. \*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Step up and do your thing. Your actions will be noted and appreciated. Open your heart and your doors to those you can help, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Personal gain, compliments and romance are on the rise. \*\*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look over your assets and liabilities and you'll come up with a savings plan that will buy you the freedom you need to follow your heart and your dreams. Stop spinning your wheels and start doing what makes you happy. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Press forward with vigor, discipline and hard work, and let your passion carry you to your destination. Expand your interests, and you'll find new outlets to share your ideas and market your talents. Size up situations and pick the path best suited. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can reinvent yourself without going to great expense. Revisit an idea ripe for what's happening in your neck of the woods, and you'll discover a new way to use your skills and raise your income. Don't fear change. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, innovative and dynamic. You are careful and resourceful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8			6			3	
2			7		1	8		6
	4	6	3			5		
	7					9	2	
3				4				7
	1	9					5	
		1			3	4	9	
8		7	9		4			5
	6			2			1	

Difficulty Level ★

1/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

4	7	1	5	9	6	3	2	8
3	8	2	4	1	7	5	9	6
5	6	9	3	2	8	1	7	4
1	3	7	9	6	2	4	8	5
9	2	5	8	4	1	6	3	7
6	4	8	7	3	5	9	1	2
8	1	4	2	5	9	7	6	3
2	9	3	6	7	4	8	5	1
7	5	6	1	8	3	2	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★

1/26

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARGENTINA WINS FIFA WORLD CUP

Solution: 11 letters

I N O L A C S O C C E R M M F  
S O C O R R E A F M U L A E R  
S T I P S N A F O R T R P A  
E A F E C A A N Y E C N T A N  
M M A Z O R T F T H A A I L C  
O E I Z R I I S H N I P N A E  
L N L E E N I A D B S A E C F  
I D G L A L R E R E L J E I O  
N I A L L D Z E U G I R D O R  
A E T A E E S E D A R A P S W  
D C C P R E S T M A N A H G A  
A A A A C U N A R O S T E R R  
M U V C I P O R T U G A L O D  
L L D I M A R I A L A B Y D N  
A R M A N I L L U R O M E R O

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1/23

Acuña, Almada, Álvarez, Armani, Correa, De Paul, Di María, Dybala, Fans, Fernández, Final, Forward, Foyth, France, Ghana, Gómez, Hard, Iran, Japan, Mac Allister, Martínez, Match, Messi, Molina, Montiel, Otamendi, Palacios, Parade, Pezzella, Portugal, Rest, Rodríguez, Romero, Roster, Rulli, Run, Scaloni, Score, Serbia, Soccer, Tagliafico

Last Friday's Answer: Sledgehammer To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Chiefs, led by hobbled Mahomes, beat Jags 27-20 in playoffs



**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Patrick Mahomes pleaded with Chiefs coach Andy Reid to let him stay in the game on Saturday.

He argued with trainers, assistant coaches and anyone else within earshot on the Kansas City sideline to let him play through an injured right ankle.

"I'm not coming out of a playoff game," Mahomes would say later, "unless they take me out."

Well, the Chiefs did, forcing him to get X-rays late in the first half of their divisional game against Jacksonville.

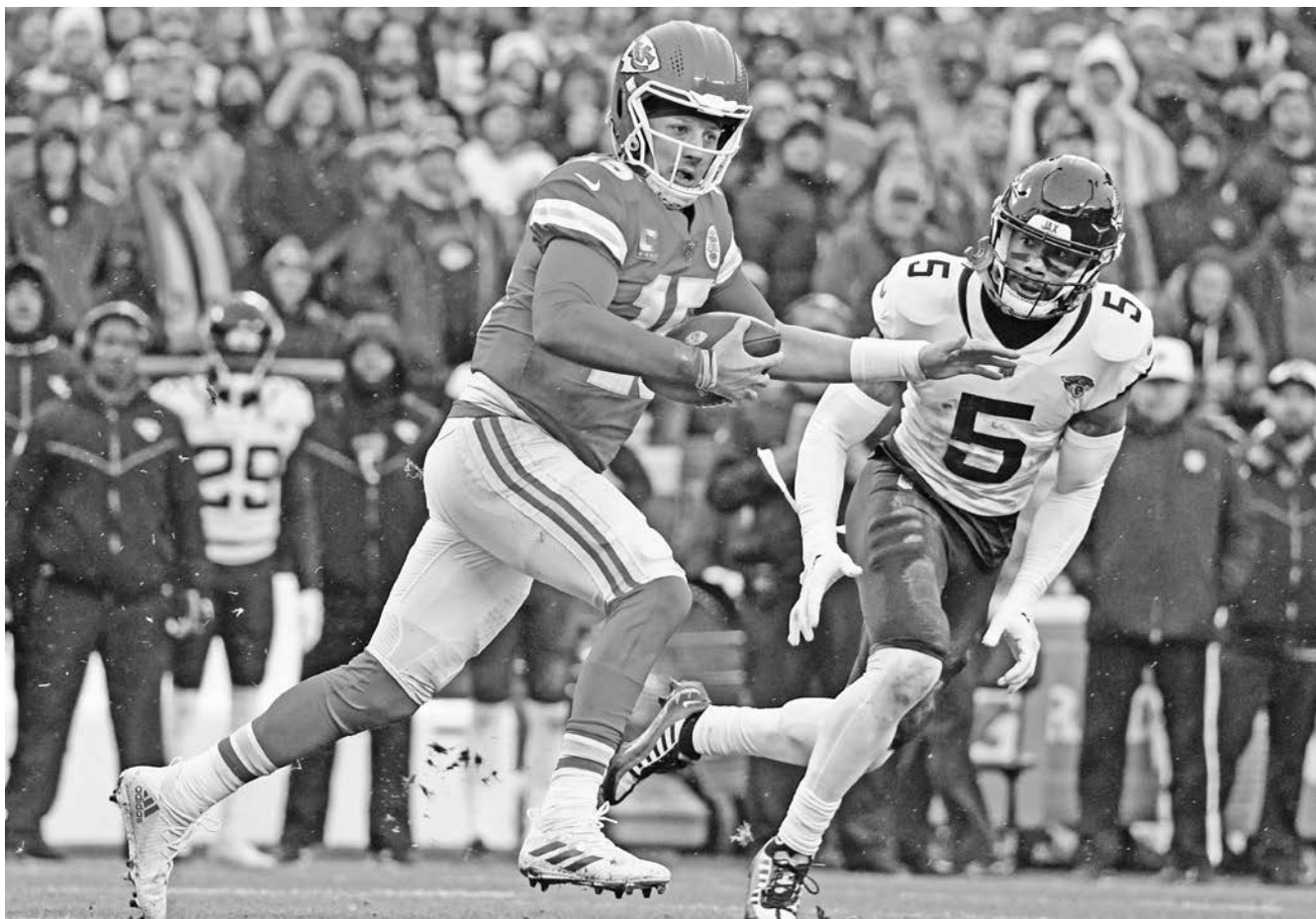
But when they came back negative, and Mahomes proved he could protect himself in the halftime locker room, Reid decided to let his All-Pro quarterback back on the field — and he gamely led them to victory.

Mahomes finished with 195 yards passing and two touchdowns, the second capping a 75-yard drive late in the fourth quarter, and lifted Kansas City to a 27-20 victory over the Jaguars and a spot in a fifth straight AFC championship game.

Mahomes also vowed to be ready for next week against the winner of Sunday's game between Cincinnati and Buffalo. If the Bengals win, they will be back at Arrowhead Stadium; if the Bills win, they're headed to Atlanta.

Chad Henne led a 98-yard touchdown drive while Mahomes was out. Travis Kelce had a career-high 14 catches for 98 yards and two scores. Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in the eventual clinching TD pass with about 7 minutes left in the game.

"It's a credit to the team I have around me, the coaches around



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) runs out of the pocket as Jacksonville Jaguars safety Andre Cisco (5) defends during the first half of an NFL divisional round playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

me and the organization in general," Mahomes said. "We try to do whatever we can to be in this position, to get to the AFC championship game and find a way to the Super Bowl."

The Jaguars, who rallied from a 27-0 deficit to beat the Chargers in the wild-card round, squandered two chances to mount another late rally. The first ended when Jamal Agnew had the ball pop loose inside the Chiefs 5 with about 5 1/2 minutes to go, and the second when Jaylen Watson made a leaping, one-handed interception near midfield.

The Jaguars' last-gasp chance ended when Kansas City recov-

ered an onside kick with 24 seconds to go.

Trevor Lawrence finished with 217 yards passing with a touchdown toss to Christian Kirk, who was briefly hurt midway through the fourth quarter but returned to finish the game. Travis Etienne added 62 yards rushing and a touchdown.

"When you get this far you don't want to only go this far," the Jaguars' Foyesade Oluokun said. "You want to keep going."

"I don't really have the words right now," Lawrence added. "The Chiefs did more today than we did."

Long before Mahomes hobbled to the sideline in pain, he

was at his creative best, driving the Chiefs downfield on their opening possession.

There was a shortstop-style sidearm sling to JuJu Smith-Schuster, a key third down pass to Kelce as he was being dragged to the turf, and the flip pass to his tight end that gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead.

The Jaguars came right back, taking advantage of a big kickoff return and a short field.

Lawrence, whose four touchdown throws helped to stun the Chargers last week, proceeded to hit Kirk for the matching touchdown.

Then, the complexion of the game changed.

Mahomes was moving up in the pocket when Arden Key brought the full weight of his body down on the quarterback's ankle. Mahomes hobbled to the huddle and managed to get through three more plays to end the first quarter, then was on the field two more plays before Harrison Butker kicked a 50-yard field goal.

During the Jaguars' ensuing possession, Mahomes got into a heated argument with Reid and the training staff. He then threw down his coat and headed to the locker room, forcing Henne to take over midway through the second quarter, just as the 37-year-old journeyman did

two years ago in a playoff win over Cleveland.

"Yeah, I did not want to go, and they kind of gave me the ultimatum that I wasn't going back in unless I went in there," said Mahomes, who cheered on Henne's 98-yard drive from the sideline, wearing a puffy winter coat on a cold, sleeting night.

As the second half began, though, that familiar red No. 15 jersey was trotting back onto the field.

"It was a short leash," Reid acknowledged. "If I felt like he wasn't able to handle it, he would have been out."

His right ankle heavily taped, Mahomes struggled to move around, but simply his presence seemed to calm the Chiefs—and their angst-filled fan base. Butker added a second 50-yard field goal late in the third quarter to extend the lead to 20-10, and when the AFC South champs answered with a touchdown of their own, so did the Chiefs.

Mahomes drove them downfield for one last score that proved to be the margin of victory.

"We know that if it's up to Pat, he's going to be in there. I'm sure he had some words with everyone on the sideline that he wanted to be in there as fast as possible," Kelce said afterward.

"It's just a different feeling when one-five is in there. He can make anything happen, even on one ankle."

Mahomes improved to 5-0 in the divisional round of the playoffs. He's thrown 28 TD passes and three interceptions in 10 home playoff games. Henne was 5 of 7 for 23 yards and a score. Jacksonville had eight wins as an underdog this season, tied for the most in the Super Bowl era.

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—All it took was one throw. Jalen Hurts let it fly on his first pass attempt of the game and suddenly the unease that crept into that often worrisome Philly sports psyche—yeah, but how is his banged-up right shoulder, really?—seemed to dissipate.

Hurts' shoulder was fine. No doubt about that.

With Hurts in complete control, the Philadelphia Eagles once again look like the team that was rarely challenged during an NFL-best 13-1 start.

Hurts threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score during a dominant first half, and the Eagles overwhelmed the New York Giants 38-7 on Saturday night in an NFC divisional playoff game.

"To have him out there, I know this is high praise, it's like having Michael Jordan out there," coach Nick Sirianni said. "He's your leader. He's your guy. That's the big-

## Hurts, Eagles pound Giants early, coast to NFC title game

gest respect I can pay to him."

Top-seeded Philadelphia will host the NFC championship game next Sunday against either Dallas or San Francisco.

Hurts missed two late-season losses with a sprained right shoulder and then showed the Giants nothing in the season finale when the Eagles ran a vanilla offense designed to protect the Pro Bowl QB.

Under bright postseason lights at the Linc, the Eagles unleashed an offense designed to clobber the Giants. Hurts dazzled early with his arm and Philadelphia's offensive line opened big holes for Miles Sanders and Kenneth Gainwell as the Eagles finished with 268 yards on the ground. Hurts finished 16 of 24 for 154 yards.

"Seemed like the old Jalen to me," Sanders said.

Hurts showed he was fine when he aired out a pass on the

second play of the game and hit DeVonta Smith in stride for a 40-yard reception. The fun was just starting in Philly.

Hurts was flawless on the drive, completing passes of 9 yards, 5 yards, and then — boom — a 16-yard TD pass on a one-handed grab by tight end Dallas Goedert.

Second drive, more of the same. Hurts had completions of 12 yards and 9 yards en route to a 9-yard TD pass to Smith.

It was 14-0 in the first quarter and the Giants already needed a standing eight count. New York turned the ball over on downs on its first possession, and Daniel Jones was intercepted by James Bradberry on its second.

The Linc was bonkers with full-throated chants of "E-A-G-L-E-S!" filling the air and Sirianni went wild chest-bumping assistants on the

sideline.

"Philly's been drinking since 8 a.m.," Goedert cracked of the raucous atmosphere.

Hurts' shoulder may not have been 100 percent.

But his passing was: He went 7 of 7 for 89 yards in the first quarter.

"This guy leads, he brings this calmness to the entire team," Sirianni said. "He's as tough as they come. To me, there's not anybody that's played better football than him this year."

Even when the calls were obvious for the Eagles, the Giants were helpless to stop them. Case in point: The Eagles had the ball on the New York 3. Give the ball to Boston Scott? Yes they did. Scott scored his 11th touchdown against the Giants for a 21-0 lead. He has only 19 TDs in his career. Giants defensive coordinator Wink Martindale

riled up Philly fans this week when he insisted Scott wasn't a "Giant killer."

Hard to argue against that point now.

Hurts wrapped the half with a 5-yard touchdown run — he bobbled the shotgun snap but still coasted untouched into the end zone — for a 28-0 lead. There have been only four more lopsided first-half playoff shutouts in NFL history.

"I'm so proud of this team, how we came out here. I'm so proud of these fans. It's a Philly thing, you know? It's special," Hurts said.

Gainwell finished with 112 yards on 12 carries, including a late 35-yard touchdown. Sanders had 17 rushes for 90 yards.

Coach Brian Daboll's Giants were discombobulated from the start and looked nothing like the team that beat the Minnesota Vikings 31-24 last

week for their first postseason win since their Super Bowl victory under Tom Coughlin 11 years ago.

Matt Brieda had an 8-yard TD run for the Giants in the third quarter. Daniel Jones was 15 of 27 for 135 yards and a pick.

"Give Philly credit, they did everything better than we did tonight," Daboll said.

Hurts ran, threw and directed the offense with the same authority as he did when he led the Eagles to a 14-1 start and won over a city that still wasn't so sure about him in the preseason. In last year's playoff loss to Tampa Bay, Hurts threw two interceptions and was just 23 of 43 for 258 yards.

A year later, Hurts is a fan favorite and has the Eagles in the hunt for their first Super Bowl since 2018.

"We're close to the top," Sirianni said. "But don't look at the the top yet."



# No. 1 Swiatek, No. 7 Gauff both lose at Australian Open



**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—It all came so

seemingly easy for Iga Swiatek last season—two Grand Slam trophies, eight titles overall, a 37-match winning streak, a lengthy stay at No. 1 in the rankings.

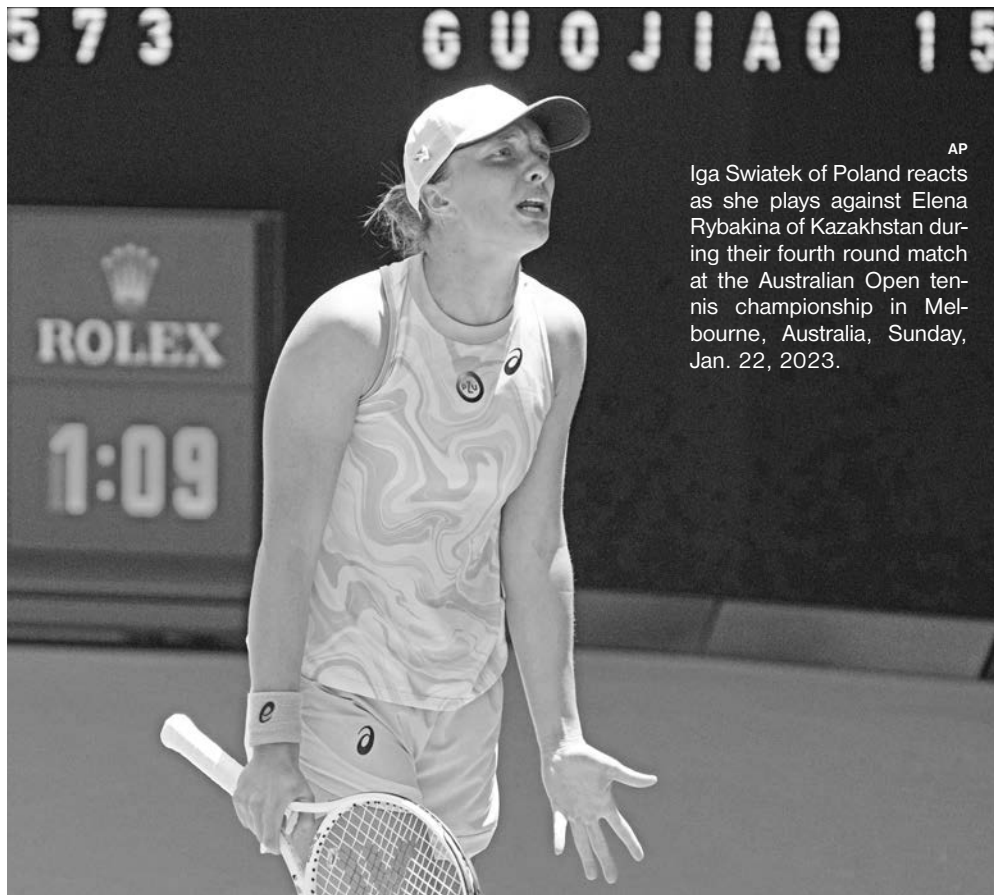
Those accomplishments made everyone else expect constant greatness from Swiatek, which she can't do anything about. They also changed the way she approached big moments, and a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open's fourth round Sunday made Swiatek wonder whether she needs to reassess her outlook.

"I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit more," Swiatek said. "I felt the pressure, and I felt that 'I don't want to lose' instead of 'I want to win.'"

So there will not be a showdown between Swiatek and No. 7 seed Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park. Instead, it will be Rybakina taking on 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, a 7-5, 6-3 winner against Gauff, with a semifinal berth at stake.

"I kept her under so much pressure," Ostapenko said.

Both the 22nd-seeded Rybakina, a 23-year-old who



AP  
Iga Swiatek of Poland reacts as she plays against Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

represents Kazakhstan, and the 17th-seeded Ostapenko, a 25-year-old from Latvia, made it this far in Australia for the first time.

"There was moments in the match where I was getting frustrated, because I normally can problem-solve, but today I feel like I didn't have much answers to what she was doing," said Gauff, an 18-year-old from Florida who was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open last June.

"There was balls I was hitting deep, and she was hitting them on the line and hitting them back deep, over and over again," said Gauff, who wiped away tears during her news conference. "It's just one of those days that just didn't go my way and went her way."

One key: Ostapenko went 3-for-3 converting her break chances, and Gauff was just 1-for-8 in such situations.

Rybakina, meanwhile, used her big serve to produce a half-

dozen aces, part of an overall 24-15 edge in total winners against Swiatek.

The women's fourth-rounders scheduled for later Sunday were: No. 3 Jessica Pegula vs. 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejickova, and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka vs. unseeded Zhu Lin.

In men's action, 13th-seeded Karen Khachanov reached the quarterfinals by beating No. 31 Yoshihito Nishioka

6-0, 6-0, 7-6 (4), setting up a meeting against No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz or No. 29 Sebastian Korda, who were playing in the afternoon.

Other men's matches Sunday: No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 15 Jannik Sinner, and No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime vs. unseeded Jiri Lehecka.

Until Sunday, both Swiatek and Gauff looked fairly dominant for a week, winning every set they contested. Swiatek dropped a total of just 15 games, Gauff just 19, through three matches.

"For sure, when you play against No. 1, I think you have really nothing to lose. I knew that I had to be aggressive from the first ball because she's a great mover, and she defends really well," Rybakina said. "So I was trying to just attack her from the first ball, and it really worked well."

Her ranking of No. 25 does not properly reflect her ability or results because her championship at the All England Club in July did not come with any ranking points. The WTA and ATP tours withheld all points at Wimbledon in 2022 after the All England Club barred players from Russia and Belarus from participating because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Rybakina—who was born in Moscow but has played for Kazakhstan since 2018, when that country offered her funding to support her tennis career—said her current standing

"doesn't bother me, because it's been already six months," yet also acknowledged it does provide some motivation.

Despite her status as a major champion, Rybakina has been out of the spotlight: Her first-round match at Melbourne Park was placed on tiny Court 13 last Monday; her match against two-time Slam champ Garbiñe Muguruza at least year's U.S. Open was on Court 4.

But her game is worthy of much more attention, as she displayed in knocking out Swiatek, one match after defeating 2022 Australian Open runner-up Danielle Collins.

Swiatek was not at her best, and Rybakina had a lot to do with that. In the opening game, Swiatek led 40-love but got broken. In the next, Swiatek held two break points at 15-40 but failed to convert either. So early on, while it ended up being 2-2, it very well could have been 4-0 in Swiatek's favor, and she termed that sequence "a little bit disturbing."

Rybakina wound up serving out that set at love, capping it with a 113 mph (183 kph) ace, and her dangerous backhand was quite a help, too: She produced six winners off that wing in the first set, compared with zero for Swiatek.

In the second set, Swiatek appeared to have gotten herself back on track, going up 3-0. But that surge didn't last long, and Rybakina took six of the match's last seven games.

## Celtics overcome injuries, beat Raptors for 9th straight win



**TORONTO** (AP)—Grant Williams scored a career-high 25 points, Jaylen Brown had 27 and the Boston Celtics overcame the absence of leading scorer Jayson Tatum to extend their winning streak to nine games by beating the Toronto Raptors 106-104 on Saturday.

Boston's injury woes worsened when guard Marcus Smart injured his right ankle in the final minute of the first half and had to be helped to the locker room. He did not return.

Center Robert Williams stayed in the game after Brown collided with his left knee in the opening quarter. At halftime, Williams was ruled out for the second half because of a hyperextended knee.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 23 points and Payton Pritchard scored all of his 12 in the fourth quarter. The Celtics are unbeaten since a Jan. 3 defeat at Oklahoma City.

Pascal Siakam had 29 points and 10 assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored 22 points and Precious Achiuwa had 17 points and 11 rebounds in his first start of the season, but

Toronto lost its third straight.

### Cavaliers 114, Bucks 102

In Cleveland, Evan Mobley scored a career-high 38 points, Darius Garland added 21 and Cleveland bounced back from an embarrassing loss with a win over Milwaukee, which was again without injured star Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Mobley made sure the Cavs shook off their 120-114 loss a night earlier to the Golden State Warriors, who beat Cleveland despite resting Stephen Curry and three other starters.

The 21-year-old Mobley finished 19 of 27 from the field and had his top scoring performance as a pro without making a three throw or 3-pointer. He added nine rebounds.

Mobley scored 12 of Cleveland's first 15 points in the fourth and the Cavs, who were without star Donovan Mitchell due to a groin strain for the third straight game, put together a 12-2 run to separate from the Bucks.

Jrue Holiday scored 28 and Bobby Portis Jr. added 23 for Milwaukee, which played its

fifth straight game without Antetokounmpo. The two-time MVP is nursing a sore left knee.

### 76ers 129, Kings 127

In Sacramento, Calif., Tyrese Maxey scored 15 of his 32 points in the third quarter and Philadelphia, playing without Joel Embiid and James Harden, completed a perfect five-game road trip by beating Sacramento.

Maxey also had seven assists and six rebounds to help the 76ers overcome a 21-point deficit.

Embiid and Harden rested foot injuries but the rest of the 76ers snapped Sacramento's six-game winning streak. Tobias Harris, Montrezl Harrell and Georges Niang all had 17 points for the Sixers.

De'Aaron Fox had 31 points and nine assists for the Kings (26-19). Harrison Barnes had 27 points, going 6 for 9 from 3-point range.

### Suns 112, Pacers 107

In Phoenix, Josh Okogie had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Mikal Bridges added 22 points short-handed Phoenix

beat Indiana for its second straight win.

Indiana had a chance to tie on its final possession, but Buddy Hield missed a rushed 3-pointer with two seconds left. The Pacers lost despite a triple-double from T.J. McConnell, who had 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Phoenix and its ragtag roster took an 87-83 lead into the fourth quarter. The Suns were once again missing a big chunk of their starting lineup, including the All-Star backcourt of Chris Paul and Devin Booker. Starting center Deandre Ayton was out with a non-COVID-19 illness.

### Hornets 22, Hawks 118

In Atlanta, Terry Rozier hit three throws with 1.1 seconds remaining, and undermanned Charlotte overcame a 19-point, third-quarter deficit to end Atlanta's five-game winning streak.

Clint Capela tipped in the miss of Trae Young's missed runner with 5.4 seconds to go for Atlanta, but Rozier, who scored 16 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, drew a foul from Jalen Johnson and buried the ensuing free throws

to win it.

The Hornets, playing without injured leading scorer LaMelo Ball, have won two straight after losing eight of nine. They entered the game 12-34, next-to-last in the Eastern Conference. It was their first consecutive wins since the end of November.

Mason Plumlee finished with a season-high 25 points and P.J. Washington scored 12 of his 23 in the fourth.

Trae Young made one of his last 12 shots and had 25 points. Dejounte Murray scored 26 points and De'Andre Hunter had a season-high 26 for Atlanta.

### Wizards 138, Magic 118

In Washington, Rui Hachimura equaled a career high with 30 points and Kyle Kuzma added 25 to lift Washington over Orlando.

Bradley Beal scored 17 points in his second game back from a hamstring injury, although Kristaps Porzingis left the game in the third quarter with a left ankle sprain.

Porzingis scored 17 points. The Wizards won their sec-

ond straight game with Beal back—and he had eight assists on the night—but now they have another injury to deal with. Porzingis hobbled down the tunnel after hurting his ankle and didn't return.

Markelle Fultz led the Magic with 23 points. Franz Wagner contributed 20 and Paolo Banchero scored 15.

### Timberwolves 113, Rockets 104

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored a season-high 44 points, D'Angelo Russell added 23 and Minnesota handed Houston its 13th straight loss.

Edwards eclipsed 40 points for the first time this season on 17-of-29 shooting from the field, including seven 3-pointers. Nathan Knight provided a spark of the bench, scoring a season-high 19 points.

Houston's Alperen Sengun scored 19 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, taking advantage of a Timberwolves team that was without Rudy Gobert (right groin soreness) for the third consecutive game. Sengun made his first seven field goals and was the catalyst for Houston outrebounding Minnesota 56-30.



# Three teams remain undefeated in Roccball



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nakama and Sufa duke it out during the second round of the 2023 Roccball season last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In Roccball's second round of competition for 2023, teams Tomodachi, Nakama, and Lotus remain undefeated during games last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The heavy hitter of Round 2 was Dylan Salalila of Team Lotus. Salalila scored four three-point goals, two two-point xunks, and three-two point aces.

In Game 1, Lotus defeated

I'd Hit That, 46-18. Nakama then defeated Sufa, 32-18, in Game 2.

In Game 3, Tomodachi defeated Bandit, 51-8, while Phan Gotte defeated Dusty Feetz, 33-20, in Game 4.

Jerome Manzon of Tomodachi came in second place as heavy hitter with six aces, one kee, and one goal.

The most aces scored in

a game for Round 2 was by Team Tomodachi with 12 two-point serves. Team Lotus was the top team for the most goals scored. The players of Team Lotus scored six three-point goals.

In Round 2 of Roccball games, there were a total of 41 aces, seven xunks, one jam, four kees, 17 goals scored in addition to a lot of the volleyball's type of court scoring.

The heavy hitters of teams who scored more than once with a two- or three-point score were Donovan Apatang of IHT with three aces, Alex Camacho of Team Sufa with two aces and two xunks, and Nohel Simina of Dusty Feetz with three aces and one goal.

Aside from the CNMI, Roccball is also played on the national level in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Roccball is also a registered sport in Egypt, Morocco,

Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Spain, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, and Spain.

Founded by longtime MHS physical education teacher James Feger, Roccball is played both indoors and outdoors. It is a game derivative of volleyball (and



uses a goal like soccer) with its roots of play inspired by the Meso-American sport of Tlachtli. Roccball's offensive and defensive

multiple points scoring system is played under a quarter/set rules of play. The quarter/set system is a combination of the clock system in which teams win a game by total points scored within a specific amount of playing time, and the set system where the winner of a game is based on the amount of time it takes to win a certain number of sets.

The sport of Roccball has been registered under different copyright categories at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. several times since 1980.

## 2022

From Page 20

and a bronze medal. Pharin got gold in the 110m hurdles and high jump, while his silver medals came in the shot put, 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m. His lone bronze came in the javelin.

Tebuteb also recalled and mentioned another highlight of NMA was when Oceania Athletics Association president Robin Sapong handed out medals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics; and also at the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Oregon, "The CNMI was again charged to sit on the Jury of Appeals panel as well as hand out medals. No one in the CNMI

had ever done this feat."

As for 2023, Tebuteb said that currently, "NMA is in coordination with our OAA officials as CNMI is preparing for the June 22-26 4th Oceania Cup and Masters Athletics Championships."

The OAA awarded the hosting rights to the CNMI after its successful hosting of the Mini Games.

Teams will represent each of the three regions of Oceania: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, as well as Australia, New Zealand, and Regional Australia. There could be approximately 350 athletes in attendance.

Tebuteb then thanked everyone for a successful year. "It is with sincere and profound gratitude to thank all our stake-

holders, volunteers, and fans. They really are the pillars of our programs. We can not do our programs without them. This also includes our government agencies who provide a safe and healthy environment for all involved with NMA."

"We also thank our elected leaders who have been very responsive with our events and activities. Our educational institutions, private and public, are at the forefront of our grassroots activities and NMA really appreciates their sacrifices and involvement. Thank you to our media friends for your consistent outreach assistance to NMA. Overall, NMA thanks our community for all your encouragement, participation and support," ended Tebuteb.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fil-Taga Golfers Association 2022 Ace of Aces Tournament champion Ruben Avendano, left, poses with the rest of the monthly winners during the awards banquet last Saturday night at the newly opened Takumi Restaurant in Garapan.

## AVENDANO

From Page 20

ary winner and Fil-Taga pioneer Mike Cruz said about playing golf.

"Like what he said, it's a good exercise for the body and the mind. You might lose the game but your body is

still a winner as there are no losers in sports," said Avendano, who volunteered that his wife also got his \$150 first place purse.

Ganacias, the March winner, took home runner-up honors and \$50 after finishing with a two-day total of 175 net (72.5 net average), while completing the Top

3 and pocketing \$30 is November ace Wil Maui who wound up with a 152 net (75 net average).

April ace Freddie Cataluna (153 net), Cruz (158 net), May ace Ed Varias (158 net), and September ace Ronnie Santos (162) made up the rest of the field in the Ace of Aces tourney.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oceania Athletics Area president Robin Sapong of the Northern Marianas and Micronesia presented at the medal ceremony for the men's shot put during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

## MIDDLE

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meeting, Gross thanked the support and partnership of the volleyball community and NMIVA, along with PSS for the volleyball program. He then congratulated Grace Christian Academy for winning the girls middle school volleyball championship that concluded last Jan. 14.

For the upcoming season, he told the coaches in attendance "I highly suggest that as you're putting your teams together, that you're putting together a tournament team that represents your school and is the best 15 volleyball players that you have that are eligible.

And then a JV team that is more of your development team that is helping those kids understand the game, learn the skills, and so on."

He said that he wants to cap the team at 12 or fewer "which allows us to run a pretty quality championship tournament, Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday into the afternoon."

The double-elimination championship tournament is set to begin on March 16, with the championship game scheduled for March 18.

Ryutaro Titulumar, volleyball league coordinator, said after the meeting, "I wish all the teams a tremendous and wonderful season for the up-

coming Boy's Middle School Volleyball!"

"Every year we see great improvement and a great show of sportsmanship from each team. To the parents and spectators, thank you for your continuous support for your children and school. I expect this season to be nothing short of exciting with a wave of roller coaster emotions. NMIVA is striving for technical officials, coaches, and most of all players to make strides in their level of play and skill sets. Again, thank you to all parents, spectators, and teams for coming out and participating and showing tremendous love for the sport of volleyball," he said.





**Chiefs, led by  
hobbled Mahomes,  
beat Jags 27-20 in  
playoffs**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Three teams remain  
undefeated in  
Rocball**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Avendano repeats as Ace of Aces champion

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**T**he ultimate longshot won the Fil-Taga Golfers Association 2022 Ace of Aces Tournament last Saturday after alternate Ruben Avendano topped the season-ending tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Avendano thus successfully defended his 2021 Ace of Aces championship after shooting a two-day total net score of 144 for an average of 72.

The 63-year-old Pacific Home Appliances staff topped the opening round with a net 69, but went back to earth with a second round net of 75 after the 19-handicap-per shot a gross of 94 (47-47).

Avendano said Lady Luck didn't smile at him in Day 2 of the two-day tourney, but his date with her on the first round proved enough for him to secure the club's most prestigious tourney a second year in a row.

"Just lucky I have enough

for the first round. The second round I played my average and it gave me only a 1-shot win. Dan [Ganacias] played above his game," said Avendano, who served as an alternate to the Ace of Aces after December winner Bae Hak Chon excused himself from the tourney.

Unlike the opening round when overcast skies opened up to a showery Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Day 2 was a golfer's paradise and Avendano said that proved more

ideal for stronger golfers like Ganacias.

"The weather was very good compared to the first game. I surprised a lot of them on Day 1 because I'm used to rough weather playing my usual nine holes rain or shine at the old Saipan Country Club," he said.

Avendano dedicated his second Ace of Aces crown to his family, especially his wife, who is "always encouraging me to play for health."

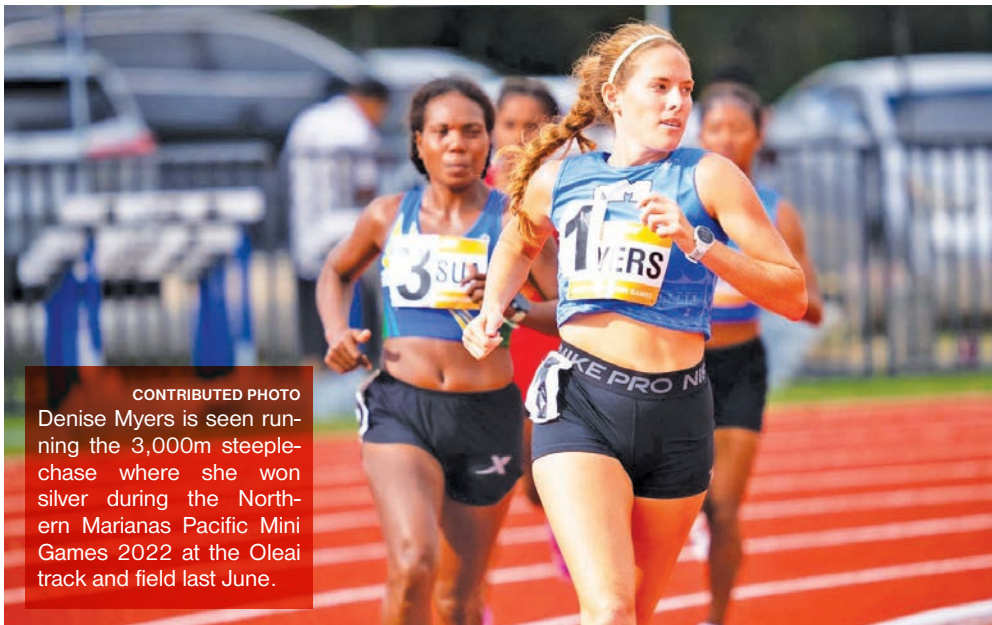
He also echoed what Janu-

**See AVENDANO  
on Page 19**



MARK RABAGO  
Fil-Taga Golfers Association 2022 Ace of Aces Tournament champion Ruben Avendano poses with his first place trophy in front of his trophy case at his home in Chinatown.

## 2022 was year of feats for NMA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Denise Myers is seen running the 3,000m steeplechase where she won silver during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Oleai track and field last June.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The year 2022 was a successful year of feats never achieved before, as far as Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb is concerned.

With the performance of the CNMI National Athletics Team in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships, Tebuteb said "The high level of competition of PMG and our Oce-

ania area regional Championships in athletics, and given our participating young athletes at these meets, we were able to garner medals and a feat we have never accomplished before."

In the Mini Games, Orrin Pharmin won silver in the octathlon, Denise Myers won silver in the 3,000m steeplechase, and Dennis Borja and the women's 4x100m relay team consisting of Casey Cruz, Zarinae Sapong, Maria Quitugua, and Kina Ranga-

mar contributed one bronze medal each.

The Oceania Championships in Mackay, Australia beforehand, saw gold for Tania Tan in the 10-kilometer run and silver in the 5-km event, while Tiana Cabrera won a bronze medal in the 3,000m run.

While not counted in the overall medal count, CNMI masters athlete Orrin Pharmin collected two gold medals, five silver medals,

**See 2022 on Page 19**



## Middle school boys v-ball begins Jan. 31

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



The NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 season sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is slated to begin next Tuesday, Jan. 31, with all games to be played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In preparation for the season, a coaches meeting was held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and over Zoom last Tuesday, attended by Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross, middle school volleyball coaches, and technical officials.

In the meeting, they dis-

cussed NMIVA guidelines for referees, players, team captains, and table techs.

Rules on tipping/dinking, shoot setting, receiving, setting, screening, top of the net, third hit opportunity, table control, sidelines, and linemen were discussed.

In the beginning of the  
**See MIDDLE on Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Public School System athletics director Nick Gross, seated left, is joined by middle school boys volleyball coaches, along with volleyball league coordinator Ryutaro Litulumar, seated third from right, and technical officials, all standing at back, after the coaches meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday for the upcoming Boys Middle School Volleyball Season.